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V. 8 Feb 78

I N T E R - A R A B I C A F F A I R S

PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING SLATED FOR 12 FEB

JN061558Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], today invited the members of the PLO Central Council to attend the Central Council meetings to be held in Damascus on 12 February. The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting's agenda includes the discussion of a number of subjects, the most important of which are:

1. To discuss relations among the resistance groups and the necessity of implementing national unity in light of the agreement reached by the various Palestinian resistance groups at the two summits of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli and Algiers.
2. To evaluate the PLO position and its political, diplomatic and popular activities during the past stage so as to foil whatever results may ensue from the meetings being held between the Zionist enemy and the As-Sadat regime. These meetings threaten the Palestinian cause and are aimed at liquidating it.
3. To formulate adequate plans to achieve more coordination with the leaders of steadfastness and confrontation, with friendly countries, particularly the socialist countries led by the Soviet Union and with nonaligned, Islamic and African countries.
4. To discuss the subject of determining the place and date of the 14th PNC session.

AL-BAKR MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE ON ALGIERS SUMMIT

JN070930Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Text of message sent by Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to Algerian President Houari Boumediene on 28 January]

[Text] Baghdad, 7 February--Esteemed brother President Houari Boumediene, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria: Greetings. I have received your recent message which included your kind invitation for holding a summit conference in Algiers of the parties that attended the Tripoli conference. I have also heard all you wished to tell me through your personal envoy Boualem Benhamouda.

Brother President, I would like to explain to you Iraq's attitude toward the significant issues included in your message and toward the topics pointed out by your envoy. As you will recall, we withdrew from the Tripoli summit conference for vital reasons, which we explained to you and to the brothers who met in Tripoli. Among these reasons was our conviction that the Syrian regime had not tangibly changed its previous attitudes, which constituted one of the basic factors in the weakness and the collapse of the Arab situation and which paved the way for As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories. Moreover, the Syrian regime had not shown any serious preparedness to pursue a new course that would persuade us of its sincere attitude.

Following the Tripoli conference, we embarked on presenting new proposals for setting up a strong front with the necessary components of steadfastness and liberation. We also dispatched a personal envoy to you carrying the text of the charter we proposed for the front. This draft charter consisted of two parts: overt and covert. The envoy also carried with him an invitation to Your Excellency for holding a summit conference in Baghdad to discuss the charter and to reach the desired result.

Brother leader Mu'annar al-Qadhdhafi, yourself and the other parties whom we invited and with whom we conducted consultations were responsive to our invitation. Then Your Excellency came to Baghdad and the discussions between us revolved around the question of how to make the Syrian regime adopt a firm attitude, indicating its belief in deeds and not in words and in the necessary requisites for setting up a strong and real front.

Your Excellency considered that solving bilateral problems between Iraq and Syria would facilitate this mission and pave the way for holding the summit meeting which we proposed in Baghdad. We agreed with Your Excellency and then with your foreign minister when you sent him to Baghdad to arrange a bilateral meeting between an authorized Iraqi delegation and a similar Syrian delegation to solve these problems. We expressed the hope that this meeting would be held in Algeria and with your participation so that you would mediate and be a factor in bringing about its success. Later, you advised us that the Syrian Government had agreed on the meeting in question. We exchanged cables and agreed to hold the meeting on 29 January in Algiers.

At the time we were about to name our delegation and to prepare it for departure, we read in the newspapers that a summit conference would be held in Algiers and then we received your official invitation.

Your Excellency, this invitation actually came as a complete surprise to us. As far as we knew, all the parties we have invited to Baghdad had accepted our invitation with the exception of the Syrian regime. Also nobody told us in advance about any desire to hold a meeting in Algiers. Your Excellency visited us in Baghdad but you did not tell us anything about it.

In fact, the question does not concern the venue for conference. Algeria is a dear Arab country and it gives us pleasure to meet in it at any time. It also gives us pleasure to respond to any invitation from Your Excellency. However, your invitation to us prompts us to ask about the fate of our call and your views on the charter we proposed to you. Is your invitation meant to discuss the proposals we made to you? If this is what is meant, what circumstances have occurred making our response to your invitation impossible? If your invitation was meant to convene a second meeting of the countries that signed the Tripoli statement, Your Excellency knows that we did not sign that statement for reasons we have mentioned.

In view of what we have stated we--apologizing for not accepting your kind invitation and wishing success for your efforts--would like to put forth to Your Excellency and to the brothers who will take part in the conference the main points which, we believe, constitute the basis to enable us to act jointly and with complete effectiveness. These points are:

1. The Syrian regime's stand toward the previous march which caused the Arab situation to reach this state of collapse and deterioration. The outcome of this stand was As-Sadat's visit to the occupied land and his negotiations with the recognition of the enemy. The Syrian stand led to this outcome and was not the strange or surprising factor in the situation. We cannot disregard that course by merely condemning As-Sadat's stand. A clear course must be defined concerning that march.

2. The Syrian regime's stand toward the situation in Lebanon and the extent of its readiness to adopt a practical stand within the framework of the front to insure the requirements necessary to confront the imperialist-Zionist plot in Lebanon. This plot is aimed at striking at the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement, partitioning Lebanon and taking it out of the Arab fold. You know our stand toward the basic issue as we clarified it in the charter we proposed. The Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement have also clarified this basic issue.

For this reason, Your Excellency, and after deep study of the situation and in spite of our love for you and our appreciation of your invitation, Iraq cannot participate in the conference you have called for if it is meant to convene a second session of the Tripoli conference. The fundamental reasons that prompted us to withdraw from the Tripoli conference still hold. We have not seen any serious change in the stand of the Syrian regime. In view of this we cannot change the stand we adopted for reasons we are firmly convinced of.

If Your Excellency desires to convene a second session of the Tripoli conference, without taking into consideration the points we submitted to you both in the message and the charter and in our talks with you, we support your efforts and await the results of your meeting in Algiers so that we can adopt a suitable stand.

Your Excellency knows our stand toward the basic issues. In our latest message and in the charter we proposed to you and in our talks with you in Baghdad, we clarified our stand to you. We informed Your Excellency, as we informed all the parties concerned, that we are ready to discuss our proposals in the charter with a spirit of responsibility, taking into consideration all the proposals that will insure minimum basic requirements for steadfastness and liberation, without giving up the principled stands we believe in.

3. The extent of the Syrian Government's readiness to set up a northern military front, consisting of Syrian and Iraqi forces as well as the forces of the other Arab sides participating in the front, in order to make this military front a tangible and material guarantee of the political course hostile to the Zionist and imperialist plots. The course should not continue to be just political attitudes and ineffective statements which mean nothing in reality.

This, Mr President, is a basic point, because we want to know accurately and with responsibility whether the Syrian regime is ready to receive Iraqi troops on the Syrian front, within the context of the conditions and requisites we made clear in the charter we proposed.

We leave these matters for your appraisal, and we hope that you will discuss them with the Syrian regime and with the other brothers at the conference in Algiers. Should there be a serious and positive attitude regarding them, we would be prepared to discuss with you what should be done in the future.

With regard to a meeting of the Iraqi-Syrian committee in Algiers, we believe that there is no longer a basis for this. The basis on which this meeting was proposed was to pave the way for President Hafiz al-Asad to attend the conference we called for in Baghdad.

Although matters have gone in another direction, we believe that the bilateral problems between Iraq and Syria do not obstruct the setting up of a real front if the Syrian regime adopts serious attitudes toward the problems we stipulated in the draft charter and in this message.

Bilateral Iraqi-Syrian relations have not been the cause of the present Syrian position, or of the present Arab situation, or even of As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories. They are the result of this position and the Syrian regime's conduct toward the vital issues in the Arab arena.

At any rate, we are still committed to our promise to solve these problems if we sense a real change in the Syrian position, bringing President al-Asad to Baghdad to discuss the charter. Without this framework and these causes, we find it not necessary to hold this meeting at present.

Finally, please accept our sincerest greetings and wishes for your success.

[Signed] Your brother, Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, president of the Iraqi Republic

AL-QADHDHAFI MESSAGES SUPPORT 'ARAFAT'S POSITION

LD041204Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Brother Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi has sent messages to all countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa--some 92 states in all. He took this action after receiving a letter from brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in which 'Arafat explains that the solution pursued by As-Sadat is not peace, but an attempt to impose surrender and Zionist-American conditions on the Arab nation. Moreover, 'Arafat explains, this solution is bound to liquidate the Palestine people's question.

In the letters brother colonel has underlined the importance of the fact that Yasir 'Arafat's message makes very clear the Palestinian people's stand vis-a-vis the solution currently put forward for the region and how this solution seeks to disperse the Palestinian people, deny their existence and rob them of their land, which they have lived on for thousands of years. The brother colonel in his messages explained that this situation constitutes a grave departure which the international community must strongly confront and that among the measures proposed to be adopted by the international community is to set a day during 1978 as day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in which the international community can adopt the cause of this oppressed Palestinian people.

PLO OFFICIAL CALLS FOR CLEAR, POSITIVE U.S. STAND

NC051855Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 January--A PLO spokesman today called on the United States to adopt a clear, positive stand toward the Palestinian cause. Sa'id Kamal, deputy head of the PLO Political Department, who resides in Cairo, told journalists that the PLO expects the United States to respect the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian people's rights. This statement was issued by the PLO on the occasion of the current talks Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat is holding in Washington. The statement said that the United States, in its capacity as a superpower, shoulders a special responsibility toward the Palestinian cause.

Using a tone considerably more moderate than the anti-American statements issued by the Algiers conference, the PLO spokesman warned that any misuse of this responsibility will bring U.S. policy on the Middle East to a dead end. Kamal said the PLO is preparing a document on the U.S. stand which it will submit to the Arab League Political Council scheduled to be held in March.

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INTER-ARMED ARMS

Beirut newspapers last week reported that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had sent messages to U.S. President Jimmy Carter explaining that the Egyptian president has no authority to speak on behalf of the PLO. There has been no confirmation of these reports yet.

FATAH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY REMOVED

NC051021Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 5 February--Two Kuwaiti newspapers report today that the Fatah movement has recently removed Abu Hisham, its representative in Saudi Arabia, because of his hostile position toward the movement's command. This took place during PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Saudi Arabia.

The newspaper AL-WATAN says that Abu Hisham was transferred to another post in Beirut after he took a hostile stand toward the command of the Fatah movement, accusing it of atheism and sabotaging the Palestinian revolution. The paper says that Abu Hisham refused to leave his office in Riyadh, but Yasir 'Arafat's guards removed him by force and took him to Damascus.

The newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM quotes informed PLO sources in Riyadh as saying that Abu Hisham was dismissed because he took a series of misleading stands. The paper says that either 'Ali Yasin, the director of the PLO office in Kuwait, or Yasin ash-Sharif, the director of the PLO office in Qatar, has been nominated for the post in Saudi Arabia.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports today that the Fatah command is currently making vigorous efforts between Damascus and Baghdad to stop the activity of some people and organizations backed by the two capitals in order to narrow the rift between Iraq and Syria. Quoting informed Arab sources in Beirut, the paper says that the Fatah movement has asked Baghdad to hand over to it Mahmud al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, or to freeze his activity because it considers him responsible for the murder of Sa'id Hamami, head of the PLO office in London, and for other actions against Syria. The paper adds that at the same time the Fatah movement is trying to persuade Syria to stop its support for the Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal at-Talbani, whose activity Iraq considers undesirable.

SOMALIA SAID TO RECEIVE ARMS FROM MOSLEM STATES

NC060959Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0742 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 6 February--The Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQAZAH reveals today that Somalia recently received a quantity of heavy weapons, particularly American M-48 tanks equipped with 105-mm guns and antiaircraft guns, given by Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

The magazine adds that Somalia has also received electronic antiaircraft equipment [mu'addat iliktruniyah mudaddah lilita'irat] from Switzerland and that NATO committees have begun studying programs and plans aimed at aiding Somalia in more than one field. In addition, AL-YAQAZAH notes that Iraq has not responded to a PDRY proposal to persuade Somalia to accept the idea of peacefully settling its conflict with Ethiopia and to retreat from the territories liberated by the revolutionaries of western Somalia because of Somalia's inability to face Ethiopia militarily. The magazine adds that Iraq has asked Aden to reconsider its relations with Somalia.

TRIPOLI CHOSEN AS ARAB CONFEDERATION CAPITAL

LD011405Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Presidential Council of the Arab Republics Confederation state has issued a decision to adopt Tripoli as a capital of the Confederation. This is implementation of the decision issued by the Presidential Council to oust the Egyptian president from the Presidential Council and to transfer the Confederation body to Tripoli.

The Presidential Council also issued other organizational decisions, including a decision pertaining to administrative and financial control of the Confederation establishments, companies and administrations. Another decision was taken concerning the appointment of the general secretariat [as heard] of the Presidential Council.

JANA INTERVIEWS ARAB CONFEDERATION PRIME MINISTER

LD031512Y Tripoli JANA in English 1452 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 3, JANA--Ahmad al-Khatib, prime minister of the Federation of Arab Republics (FAR) has said the eyes of the entire Arab nation were focussed on the summit conference of steadfast Arab leaders in Algiers. He told JANA in an interview the summit was an essential and practical step to counter surrender and treason and it will concentrate Arab efforts for the war of liberation against the racist Zionists.

He attacked Egyptian President as-Sadat for trying to freeze the work of the Federation of Arab Republics by withdrawing his ministers and said the step was aimed at trying to please his masters who abhor Arab unity.

Ahmad al-Khatib said the federation will soon have a new government to enable it to carry out its responsibilities in this gravely dangerous stage of the Arab nation. He said scientific and feasibility studies were being conducted by the federation to chalk out a practical, scientific and integrated plan for industrial, agricultural and general development of the member countries.

He recalled that the federation, whose headquarters has recently been shifted to Tripoli from the Egyptian capital, was set up to pool the resources and capabilities of the Arab countries for the battle of liberation. This, he said, will remain our aim until the liberation of Arab lands and return of the Palestinian people to their land victoriously.

VOF SCORES RESUMPTION OF IRAQI-EGYPTIAN CONTACTS

JNO31955Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 3 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At a press conference in Baghdad yesterday, (Adil al-Yasin), director of relations of the Iraqi Information Ministry, officially expressed that Iraq welcomes the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iraq. At the same time, the Iraqi official attacked the conference of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers. He stated that if the aim of the conference is to isolate Egypt, then Iraq is against such a step.

To welcome the resumption of relations with the As-Sadat regime is to welcome what As-Sadat is carrying out with the Zionist enemy. The attack against the conference of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers is an attack against the will of steadfastness and confrontation of the Arab masses, which the Algiers conference truly expresses.

There is a difference between isolating Egypt and isolating the As-Sadat regime. Egypt and the Egyptian masses have imposed by themselves internal isolation on the As-Sadat regime. Thus, the Iraqi position now uncovers a fact which perhaps has been ignored by some: that the sincerity and seriousness of slogans are proved only in practice.

ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT TO MEET

JN080555Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--It has been decided that the permanent general secretariat of the Arab popular conference will hold a meeting 11 February. Vice chairman of the conference and PLO Executive Committee Secretary Muhammad Zuhi an-Nashashibi, who announced this, added that in its meeting the secretariat will review the Arab and international political situation. It will also follow up the implementation of political and information moves and study matters on the agenda. The most important of these matters will be the draft charter of the Arab popular pan-Arab front.

An-Nashashibi added: The meeting of the general secretariat will stress the insistence of the Arab masses, represented by their national and progressive forces, on confronting the Zionist-imperialist plot and on foiling the consequences of the talks held among As-Sadat, Carter and Begin and their representatives. This will affirm the Arab masses' support for the Egyptian Arab people's struggle to thwart the plot and to support Syria's and the Palestinian revolution's steadfastness with a view to confronting the Zionist-imperialist plan.

ALGERIANS ASK TO JOIN ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION

JN041622Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1527 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 4 February--Bahjat at-Talhuni, speaker of the Senate and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, has welcomed the request by the Algerian National Assembly to join the Arab Parliamentary Union. Mr at-Talhuni stated that the request will be studied at the first session held by the union's council.

Mr at-Talhuni received a letter from Rabi'h (Batit), speaker of the Algerian National Assembly, stating the assembly's request to join the union.

Mr at-Talhuni will leave Amman for Abu Dhabi tomorrow, Sunday, on a visit to the United Arab Emirates, as part of his consultations with speakers of Arab parliaments on the Arab Parliamentary Union conference to be held in Abu Dhabi this year.

'ARAFAT GIVES INTERVIEW TO CYPRIOT NEWSPAPER

NC020920Y Nicosia TA NEA in Greek 2 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 NC

[Yasir 'Arafat interview with special correspondent Mrs Varvara Lissaridhis]

[Excerpts] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat told TA NEA yesterday that there will be neither a settlement nor stability in the Middle East as long as the Palestinian "reality is ignored. He also stressed that the liberation struggle will continue until the Palestinians' right to self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state, is achieved.

In an exclusive interview--a rare event following the Carter-As-Sadat-Begin initiative last November--'Arafat added that "nothing has changed."

This has become even more obvious, he told me, in the wake of the recent hardline statements by Begin, Dayan and other Israeli officials who insist on "no to Palestine," "no to the PLO" and "no to Palestinian rights."

'Arafat further said: "It also appears that President an-Sadat later accepted the vague statement on the future of the Palestinians made by President Carter during the Aswan talks between the two leaders last month."

'Arafat went on to say that "the Palestinians will continue their struggle until they achieve all their national rights to self-determination, including the right to return to their homeland and the right to establish an independent state."

"No peace, stability or settlement will be possible for anyone without taking into consideration these facts, by ignoring these facts.... I am referring to the Palestinian reality, which is the most important issue in the area. The Palestinian cause is the nucleus of the whole problem," 'Arafat said.

Asked what stand the Palestinians will take if Egypt concludes a separate peace agreement with Israel, 'Arafat said "we will continue our struggle."

Concerning Cyprus, he said he regards the relations between the PLO and Cyprus as "very strong," a relationship of fighters in the same trench fighting against the same enemy. "We must remember that the plot against Cyprus was planned and directed by Kissinger, who unleashed the same plot against us in Lebanon," 'Arafat said.

He said that the relations with Cyprus will continue to become "even closer in view of this whole conspiracy, for the sake of our peoples and the future of the area which has suffered so much from imperialism, colonialism and Zionism," he concluded.

USSR SAID TO BEGIN SURVEY OF ARAB OILFIELDS

NC041140Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 4 February--The newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI reports today that some gulf states have received reports and information from Western military sources indicating that Soviet satellites have recently begun surveying Arab oilfields and collecting information on them. The paper says that these satellites are collecting precise information on the oil.

PLO OFFICIAL SEES RETURN TO ARMED STRUGGLE

NC020820Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 2 February--Hani al-Hasan, the personal representative of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinian resistance will adopt a new policy. He described this policy as a return to the rifle and as not entering into dialog on the peaceful settlement.

In a statement published by the Kuwaiti daily AS-SIYASAH today, Al-Hasan added the decisions the Fatah movement has adopted can be summed up as seeking a solution which would restore Arab solidarity and put an end to the whirlpool of the peaceful solution.

SPOKESMAN GIVES DETAILS ON JERUSALEM EXPLOSION

JN041557Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian fighters yesterday morning placed timed explosive charges in Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. [Words indistinct] and resulted in an undisclosed number of casualties among the enemy police and in damage to the police station. This was announced yesterday by the military spokesman of the general command of the forces of the Palestinian revolution. The spokesman said:

Upon orders from the general command of the forces of the Palestinian revolution to strike at vital enemy installations inside the city of Jerusalem and in retaliation for the oppressive measures of the government of terrorist Menahem Begin and the campaign of arrests of our brothers in the occupied homeland, the group of the martyr Sa'id Hamami--after carefully watching the enemy and knowing how to cross both mobile and the immobile barriers he set up and to circumvent his security measures in the holy city--moved toward its destination in the Ben Yehuda Street, which is an important street and full of Zionist settlers, the group placed timed explosive charges, amounting to 12 kilograms of explosives, a large number of iron pieces and a timed device. All these were put inside a flower pot. The group then withdrew successfully, according to plans.

At 0710 the same day, the charges were discovered and police forces removed the charges and placed them inside the enemy police station in (?Mount Scopus] during the attempts of the Zionist explosive experts to defuse the charges, they went off at 1730 and the explosion was heard in all parts of occupied Jerusalem. The enemy losses are estimated as follows: The killing or wounding of an undisclosed number of police personnel and explosive experts; the damaging of the police station, the breaking of the glass windows of nearby buildings; the damaging of a large number of police cars inside the station.

All the roads leading to the police station were immediately closed and ambulances rushed to the area to take the killed and wounded to hospitals. More than 100 Palestinians were arrested by the Zionist authorities investigating the incident. The Zionist authorities prevented newsmen and reporters from approaching the police station.

CONFERENCE ON JOINT STRATEGIC ACTION TO BE HELD

JN011839Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 February--Dr 'Abd al-Hasan Zalzalah, assistant Arab League secretary general for economic affairs, this evening left Baghdad for Cairo after participating in the preparations for convening the pan-Arab conference for joint strategic Arab action scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 18 April 1978. Dr Zalzalah said that the conference will discuss six major topics aimed at formulating a strategy for joint comprehensive Arab action, assessing the march of Arab action in the last 30 years and defining the outlook until the end of this century.

Dr Zalzalah added that the Arab League General Secretariat and the Arab Economists Association will undertake to complete final arrangements for convening the conference in the meeting which will be held in Baghdad in early March 1978. Dr Zalzalah said that the Arab Economic Council will convene in Tunis on 20 February 1978 and will make preparations for this conference.

GULF INFORMATION MINISTERS CONFERENCE OPENS IN BAGDAD

JN071249Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 February--Meetings of the third conference of the Gulf information ministers began here this morning. In an opening speech, Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi expressed his confidence that the meetings will take a stride toward the aims of the Arab nation for progress. He said that the Iraqi people and government are confident that this conference will succeed. He said that Iraq adhered and will always adhere to the principles of cooperation based on confidence and understanding.

Hammudi said that the conference must discuss the strategic importance of the gulf area at the Arab and international levels. This requires raising the standard of work in all fields to face the challenges, to discuss new information projects and to develop means of communication. Hammudi called on the conference to pay attention to the use of modern means commensurate with the tasks and aims facing the Arab people.

Hammudi expressed Iraq's satisfaction and pride in the results of the previous conferences of the gulf information ministers. He said that Iraq is more determined than ever to place all available resources at the service of Arab brothers everywhere in general and in the Arab Gulf states in particular.

KUWAIT

AS-SALIM AS-SABAH APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER

LD081020Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Amir's decree]

[Text] After perusing Clause 56, Paragraph 1 of the constitution and after our decree of 22 January 1978 accepting the resignation of the cabinet, we decree the following:

1. Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah is appointed prime minister and is charged with forming the new cabinet and submitting the names of its members to us.
2. The prime minister will carry out this decree, which is effective as of its date of issue and which will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

[Signed] Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Hamad as-Sahah. Issued in As-Sif Palace on 8 February 1978.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM ARRIVES WITH AL-ASAD MESSAGE FOR AMIR

LD071736Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived here this afternoon. He was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah; Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz ar-Rashid, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Salah al-Mutawwa, director of the protocol section at the Foreign Ministry; and by the Syrian ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Mr Khaddam told newsmen that he was carrying a message to the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah from President Hafiz al-Asad pertaining to the present Arab situation. He also said that his visit to Kuwait concerns the results of the second meeting of the Tripoli pact member states held in Algiers last week.

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Mr Khaddam denied that his visit is linked to the situation of the Arab deterrent in Lebanon. He said: The presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon is connected with a decision taken by President Ilyas Sarkis. He added that the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon has a mission to accomplish, and when this mission is accomplished, its presence in Lebanon will therefore become unnecessary.

Received by Amir

LD081044Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Text] His highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Hamad as-Sabah, received at 0900 today in As-Sif Palace Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, who presented to his highness Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Mr Khaddam conveyed to his highness a letter from his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting took place in the presence of the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait.

Departs 8 Feb

LD081046Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Kuwait late this morning. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO LEBANON'S AL-ANWAR

NC071238Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 7 February--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has said that Qatar has asked the United States, France and the FRG to stop the flow of U.S. arms to Israel.

In an exclusive interview published in the Lebanese newspaper AL-ANWAR today, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz said that Qatar will not hesitate to use oil as a weapon if the peace efforts are deadlocked and confrontation flares up with Israel, although oil is an economic and not a political commodity.

The Qatari oil minister strongly denied reports about austerity in the new Qatari budget. He asked: How can there be austerity in the budget when its figures and the new oil and industrial development and construction projects are increasing? He also denied that there is any link between the low dollar rate and the decision to increase the value of the Qatari rial or that oil will be paid for in any other currency than the dollar. He said that the decision is aimed at protecting and strengthening the rial and at achieving more coordination with some of the fraternal Arab countries so as to facilitate the exchange of currency between the citizens and travelers in these countries.

He expressed the belief that if the value of the dollar continues to fluctuate in as much as it would constitute a national [qawmiyah] and domestic loss to the oil states, then OPEC will try to find a stable currency for payment of the oil.

SAUDI ARABIA

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORTS OF FIGHTING WITH PDRY

NC071820Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 7 February--An official responsible source in Saudi Arabia has denied a report published in yesterday's issue of the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM quoting a report by the ASIA AND THE GULF magazine, which is published in London. The report said that clashes along the Saudi Arabia-PDRY border have escalated in the past weeks and that four Saudi fighter planes had been intercepted and forced to land near the Yemeni border during these clashes. The source stated that the report is completely unfounded.

KING RECEIVES SYRIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

LD071242Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] His Exalted Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this morning received His Excellency 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and Dr Rashad Fir'awn, private adviser to His Highness King Khalid. The Syrian minister had lunch with his majesty. His excellency arrived in the kingdom this morning and will leave this afternoon.

OFFICIAL SOURCE REITERATES POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST

NC080558Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2250 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 7 February--An official source tonight affirmed that the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Middle East issue is firm and has not changed. It is based on the unanimous resolutions of the Arab summit conferences and calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, recognition of the full national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish their own state on their national soil and their right to decide their fate freely and without a mandate from anyone.

The source referred to a recent report published by the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, which was quoted by news agencies, to the effect that His Excellency Algerian President Houari Boumediene had informed the participants in the Algiers conference that the Saudi leaders do not oppose the idea of King Husayn regaining the West Bank of the Jordan River.

The source said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not exclude the possibility that such a report had been attributed to his excellency the Algerian president without observance of the duty of the press to report things accurately, because this report is unfounded and far from the truth. The source added: At the same time, we would like to stress that the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this matter is known to all.

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA CRITICIZED

LD061416Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Several countries of the African Continent are now suffering from acute crises which have occupied a prominent place among those problems which hold the threat of a world war of untold consequences. These crises stem from the communist principles which seek to enlarge the circle of occupation, whatever the cost. The communist countries, and foremost the USSR, have played a major part in increasing tension in the African Continent.

The area of the fighting between the Somali and Ethiopian forces has occurred over a wide sphere where numerous sophisticated types of communist weapons were apparent. The most prominent of these weapons are those made in the USSR and Cuba.

Although the western Somali liberation forces have scored many victories and although the Eritrean liberation forces are now besieging the capital of Asmara and the port of Massawa, they are still suffering from an imbalance of power due to open foreign interference. This imbalance has led to an Ethiopian counterattack in an attempt to retrieve the Ogaden region. Soviet MIG aircraft carried out intensive air raids in the Harar area, north of Ogaden.

Despite this flow of Soviet-Cuban arms to Ethiopia, we still see the reluctance of the Western countries to supply arms to enable Somalia to defend itself and withstand the Ethiopian attacks. Somali President Siad Barre spared no effort in appealing to the African countries in particular and the Western countries in general to offer aid to his country.

The Israeli enemy has also been supplying Ethiopia with sophisticated arms and technicians. This exposes the imperialist-expansionist ambitions of Israel not only in the Arab territories alone but also in a territory that could be made use of in some way or another.

Brothers, by their open interference in the Ethiopian-Somali war, the USSR and others like it are working according to a long-term plan aimed at internationalizing the conflict in the Horn of Africa quickly and disrupting peace and security throughout Africa. These are sufficient reasons for all the African and Western countries to declare their denunciation and to foil these plans. It has been proven beyond all doubt in various parts of the world that once it penetrates any country communism leaves its evil imprints and spreads its subversive principles which destroy all values and civilizations. The coming days will prove that whatever temporary victories they score the cries of protest by the peoples and governments are capable of diminishing these temporary victories and of turning them into ugly defeats. The communist countries' efforts to establish military footholds in the African Continent anew are bound to fail in advance. History provides the proof.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH UAE COUNTERPART

JN071907Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj held talks this morning in Abu Dhabi with Ahmad as-Suwaydi, UAE foreign minister, on the relations between the two fraternal countries and on the Arab situation in general.

Makes Statement to Newsmen

NC081205Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 February--The foreign minister of the Yemeni Arab Republic (YAR), 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who is currently visiting the UAE, has said that his country intends to call on the Arab states bordering the Red Sea to convene an urgent conference to discuss the threats to the security and safety of these states and the dimensions of the various foreign interferences in the area. Al-Asnaj expressed his country's strong concern over the deterioration in the situation in the Horn of Africa and the attacks on Somalia.

In statements made to newsmen in Abu Dhabi today, Al-Asnaj said that the YAR will exert efforts with Mogadiscio and Addis Ababa to find an overall solution to the conflict between the two countries and that the YAR's support for the people's right to self-determination will be reaffirmed. Al-Asnaj held a meeting this morning with the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah, and discussed with him the current Arab situation and the joint efforts exerted by the gulf and Arabian Peninsula states to put Arab solidarity back on the right course.

Al-Asnaj had met with the Moroccan ambassador to the UAE, Hassan El Fassi el-Fihri, and handed him a message from the chairman of the YAR Command Council, Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, for King Hassan II in connection with the situation in the Arab area and the YAR's efforts to restore Arab solidarity.

The Yemeni minister said after the meeting that he will tour the Arab Maghreb countries soon. Al-Asnaj arrived in Abu Dhabi from Riyadh 2 days ago on a visit to the UAE in the course of his current tour of a number of Arab states.

AL-GHASHMI SENDS LETTER TO KING HASAN II

JN071630Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Nonaligned newscast]

[Text] San'a', 7 February--SABA'--Muhammad Sayyid al-Qutabi, YAR ambassador to the UAE, today handed over two letters to the Moroccan ambassador there. The first letter was from YAR Command Council Chairman al-Ghashmi to Moroccan King Hasan II and the second from YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj to his Moroccan counterpart.

The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the letters deal with the current Arab situation and the YAR's desire to develop its relations with Morocco.

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AS-SADAT MEETS WITH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

NC071914Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[TEXT] President Anwar as-Sadat today met in closed session with members of the House International Relations Committee at the beginning of the meeting both the chairman of the International Relations Committee and the majority leader delivered speeches welcoming President as-Sadat and expressing admiration for the president's bold initiative to establish peace in the Middle East. They expressed hope that this initiative would lead to a better world. They also expressed happiness at the progress of the relations between the Egyptian and American peoples. The president's meeting with the committee members last about 2 hours.

After the meeting the president said he was pleased with the warm reception he was accorded by the committee members. He added that since his meeting with the committee members last April great developments had taken place, and he wanted to brief them on these developments. He said that the meeting was very beneficial.

The radio team has learned that President as-Sadat explained Egypt's position on the comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's failure to respond positively to his peace initiative.

The president then went to the U.S. Senate where he attended a luncheon given by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

President as-Sadat will meet tonight with the members of the Black Caucus in the United States. He will also meet with the Arab ambassadors to the United States.

As-Sadat Discusses Talks

NC072300Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2114 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Report on Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's meeting with newsmen following 7 February meetings in Washington with members of the House International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee]

[Text] Asked how the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had received the request for U.S. arms, President as-Sadat said: Marvelous, indeed. Most of the members of the Foreign Relations Committee have visited Cairo, and I have strong friendly ties with them. We had a very fruitful discussion. My discussions with President Carter at Camp David were also very [word indistinct]. We talked about the future steps and the situation in the Horn of Africa. We covered all subjects.

Asked about response he received from the [word indistinct], President as-Sadat said: I gave the full details. Certainly, as I told you, they are friends. We are partners. I would not like to see the American people impose an embargo on me like the Soviet Union has been doing since 1973.

Asked about the reaction of the members of Congress following his initiative and visit to Israel, the president said that the members of the Foreign Relations Committee [words indistinct].

Asked whether he will send Egyptian forces to Somalia, the president said: I cannot say anything on this matter.

Asked whether the members of Congress [words indistinct], the president said: I came here to ask them [words indistinct], on Israel. As a mutual friend of both of us, the United States must play its role following the new spirit that arose after my visit to Jerusalem.

Asked whether he thinks the Israeli-Egyptian talks will be resumed very soon, the president said that after Atherton arrives in the area we hope to reach some results that will enable us to hold the talks.

Asked about the threats [tahdidat] which President as-Sadat made to Congress, and what response he met, the president said: I was joking when I said I threatened them. When I was here last year there was a campaign against me, saying that I came with a shopping list of weapons. [words indistinct] know my real intentions, but there were some doubts. But after my initiative and visit to Jerusalem and what I have seen of sentiments expressed by the U.S. people, I say that I am no longer shy. I am not only asking but also threatening. In reply to another question about arms, the president said: I hope so.

Asked about his meeting with members of the House International Relations Committee, he said: I am very happy with the warm reception which I was accorded by the House International Relations Committee. Since my visit to them and my meeting with them last April, many events and concrete developments have taken place. I briefed them on all the aspects and submitted a report on the events which have taken place since my last meeting with them.

In reply to a question by one of the newsmen, the president said: I was very clear. Last year I was shy, but now I am not shy at all. The Congress must adopt the decisions.

In reply to a question about President Carter's need to secure congressional permission in order to supply arms to Egypt, the president said: I put the entire situation and its details before the president. As a friend I can say that if they reject this [request for arms] I will raise hell. Asked whether he asked for F-15 aircraft, the president refused to answer. He said: No, I do not want to answer this question.

Asked whether criticisms have been levelled against Egypt, the president said: When we meet we talk with complete frankness. Certainly there was some criticism, and I answered it [words indistinct].

AS-SADAT DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST WITH AMERICAN WRITERS

NC071450Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's 6 February press conference with American writers and chief editors--read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] How much time will it take for Palestinian self-determination to materialize?

[Answer] I have no objection at all to the amount of time this will take, provided it ends with the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. This can take 1, 2, or 3 years, but this must end with the right of self-determination. I fully agree with this.

[Question] How do you define the right of self-determination? Do you think the interim period will end with a continued Palestinian link with Jordan in a federal or confederal form or, at the end of that period do you think the Palestinians will have the right to become an independent state?

[Answer] Let us speak frankly. Self-determination means full independence of the Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Until we reach that point I will agree to any arrangements, provided the Palestinians take part in making them. This is my view. We cannot go into the details without the Palestinians meeting with us and expressing their view.

[Question] Do you feel it is necessary to promise the Palestinians that at the end of the interim period they will have an independent and separate state in order to convince them to take part in the current peace negotiations?

[Answer] In the present stage, I have no objection at all, whatever happens, as long as we reach self-determination after a specific period. This reminds us of what happened when we began discussing the Geneva conference and after President Carter sent me the first paper and then the second paper. We then began wrangling over procedural matters. I have said before that even if that paper was from the devil I would go to Geneva, because I pay no attention to procedural matters. This applies to what we are talking about with regard to the Palestinian issue. Anything that happens prior to self-determination does not bother me as long as there is agreement on the principle. I am prepared to be flexible on this, provided the Palestinians participate with the parties concerned in reaching agreement on it.

[Question] Did you ask Carter for Israeli concessions during your meeting with him Camp David?

[Answer] Well, you may have heard my speech today at the National Press Club. The nature of the U.S. role must assume a new form after my initiative in visiting Jerusalem. This form, as I said in the Press Club today, must be manifested in the United States using its good offices with the two sides. Some say that I came here to try to persuade Carter to exert pressure on Israel. I think that the only side that has devoted its efforts to and played a constructive role in settling this conflict is the United States. Therefore, I asked President Carter to use his good offices with Egypt and Israel.

[Question] By good offices do you mean a request for concessions by Israel?

[Answer] I made my position clear to President Carter. I have just come from a meeting with Dr Kissinger. As you will remember, we began this process together in November 1973, with the six points released after our meeting. This was the start of the peace process between Egypt and the United States, and it has been going on until this moment. The role of the United States today is different from what it was in 1973, and after my initiative last November. Before that I used to ask Kissinger, when we differed, when he used to visit me, to try to find a formula acceptable to both sides. As I said before, the first disengagement agreement reached in Aswan was based on a U.S. proposal, because I had rejected the Israeli proposal in reaction to Israel's rejection of the Egyptian proposal. Consequently, Kissinger submitted a proposal and we both agreed to it. This was the start of the peace process. At that time the forces were confronting each other. This was a few weeks after the October war, and emotions were high. Now I have made my position clear to President Carter as to what I agree and do not agree to. Then it is up to him as to how he exercises his influence with each side. One of the sides is Israel which maintains a special relationship with the United States. I have no objection to this relationship. The other side is us, and we have very good, friendly relations with the United States. I have established personal relationships with President Carter and Secretary of State Vance.

[Question] Mr President, can you discern any change in the U.S. position since last November? Also, what are these good offices you are talking about, and have these good offices changed now?

[Answer] I think there are some basic principles which must be observed in any talks and in any solution to any problem like this problem facing us today. I have informed Mr Carter that neither side, neither we nor the Israelis, can infringe on the sovereignty of the territory of the other side. Furthermore, I am prepared to agree to anything required for Israeli security. I have announced six points concerning security. These points are still valid and will remain so whenever the Israelis choose to resume the negotiations with us.

[Question] Is there any way to change the U.S. position from what it is now in the wake of the Jerusalem visit?

[Answer] The nature of the U.S. role certainly changed after my visit to Jerusalem.

[Question] Will there be a change from here onward on the basis of your current visit to the United States?

[Answer] The U.S. role must be active in a way that would convince the Israelis, who maintain a special relationship with the United States, and the Egyptians, who also maintain a friendly relationship with the United States.

[Question] When we talk about the activation of the U.S. role concerning the declaration of principles, do we expect the Israelis to agree to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians?

[Answer] I said that I reached agreement with President Carter at Camp David on having Alfred Atherton return to the area to mediate between the Egyptians and the Israelis regarding the declaration of principles and any other points of difference between us. As I said before, I am prepared for the resumption of the negotiations when agreement is reached on the principles concerning respect for sovereignty. If Atherton succeeds in his efforts to secure agreement on the declaration of principles, this will make the whole task easier.

[Question] You said in Aswan that you agree that the Palestinians should participate in determining their future.

[Answer] I agreed to this and announced that I agree with President Carter. I announced this in Aswan at the time.

The President said that during this period we have made much progress. When I met President Carter some 8 months ago, we agreed on a 3-point agenda. The first was the land occupied in 1967 war, the second was the nature of peace and the third was the Palestinian issue. We did not disagree much on the first point. But when we began discussing the second point--the nature of peace--we did not agree at all. President Carter's opinion was that the nature of peace does not mean just ending the state of war, but I insisted that it does mean just ending the state of war. The Israelis have asked for border changes, diplomatic exchanges and cooperation. I told them that I cannot do that, and that no Arab leader could agree to that. I said that the most we can do is to agree on a peace treaty [mu'ahadat salam]. This was 8 months ago. I undertook my initiative in November and went to Jerusalem. The Israelis were asking for direct negotiations. This is something we had not agreed to before. I went to Jerusalem to hold direct talks. They asked for security guarantees, and I told them that they were right to ask this.

Let us sit around the table and discuss security. We have given Israel everything. I asked Carter last April to sell me aircraft because of the position adopted by the Soviet Union after my meeting with Kissinger. I told him that I would need aircraft in the future, but I did not insist. I asked for all kinds of U.S. weapons and not only F-5 aircraft. Some people may have argued at the time that they did not know our intentions. However, I have now shown our intentions. You all heard my speech at the Press Club. I am a man of peace. I am making this request to Carter, the U.S. people, and to all of you.

I have national defense responsibilities to confront things that are happening all around me. You are aware that the Soviet Union has made its stand clear. It has placed its arsenals in Libya, on our borders, and supplied Ethiopia with weapons which might be used against Sudan. I must confront every possible eventuality. I must confront Mr Brezhnev's threat. Egypt will answer any threat.

Replying to another question the president said: When I undertook my initiative last November, I was prepared to give Israel every possible guarantee. Israel asked for direct negotiations so I went alone without the five big powers. This was so that no one would think that I was hiding behind the powers and so that I could knock down the barriers of doubt, which constitute 70 percent of the problem.

I told the National Press Club that it would be possible to reach an agreement within days if the psychological barriers and doubts were eliminated. If I were proved wrong, another person would take over and carry on with the (?plan). I was not wrong. I have received support from all directions in Europe and America.

Asked about the rejectionist camp, the president replied: When I was at the Press Club today, I talked about the rejectionist camp, which is attacking me and accusing me of treason. I said that they cannot and will not be able to do anything to influence the course of events. However, one statement by Mr Begin spoiled everything when he insisted on the continued presence of settlements in Sinai and their defense by the Israeli Army. The rejectionist camp pounced on this card and played it. It was really a tragedy. Begin's statement has greatly diminished the spirit of the initiative and much of the effort I began in November.

To a question on Begin's recent statements on the settlements, the president said: Why does he ask me to present a formula regarding my sovereignty over my territory? Let me say this: It is a fact that we will live as neighbors, coexist and respect each other's sovereignty and independence. A few [word indistinct] here or there should not have caused this historic committee and this historic achievement to stop. However, I must tell you this--and I told the members of the Jewish community in the United States this last summer: I have issued an order giving every Jew of Egyptian origin the right to return to Egypt. If the problem is the 3,000 settlers in the settlements--who hail from Florida, unfortunately, as I have been informed--why do they not come to Cairo? I welcome them. But the problem is one of sovereignty.

When I visited Jerusalem, I held talks with Begin, Dayan, Ezer Weizman and Golda Meir. This was the first time that I had ever talked with them. I found that it was possible for us to agree. But what, frankly speaking, are the differences between ourselves and the Israelis? Regarding Sinai the difference is over the necessity of the Israelis withdrawing from Sinai and plowing over the airports before they leave.

On the following day, Begin said that As-Sadat had announced that the settlements should be burned down. He said: We work for construction and not for burning down. I had not uttered the words "burn down." If this is the position, what can we expect? As you know, I did not undertake the initiative for the sake of a separate solution, but rather for a comprehensive solution. We mentioned Sinai. I told them: Have no fear as far as Sinai is concerned because my forces will not go beyond the passes. I said that my basic [asasiyah] forces will not go beyond the passes. Thus, the Israelis will have over 180 kilometers separating us from them.

I am aware that the question of Israeli security must be taken into consideration because it is important to them. Before I came here, Begin accused me of promising that my forces would not go beyond the passes and of then withdrawing my promise. However, I will not respond to this because I keep my promises. I am an honest man and General al-Jamasi had told them so.

On the meaning of basic forces, the president said that the basic forces are those which can launch an offensive. He said: I will not comment because I do not put myself on the defensive because I do not back down on anything I say.

Asked if he will meet again with Begin in the next few weeks, the president said: Let us hope that the American role will facilitate the task and pave the way for such a meeting. For such a meeting to take place, we must first agree on some framework.

Asked if he believes that the meeting will be held in Egypt, the president answered: This is not difficult. The important thing is to reach an agreement.

About sending Egyptian forces to Somalia, the president said: I have not sent forces but I have sent arms because I was very disturbed by the situation there. The problem is not Ethiopia; there are the Israelis, the Cubans and the Soviets. There are pilots from the Soviet Union, Cuba and South Yemen. I explained this to President Carter and left it for him to make the decision.

Asked about the future of shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East, the president said: Let us get on the right path because we are now on the wrong one.

Asked about sending weapons to Chad, the president said: I have sent weapons to Chad to confront the rebels there and the Libyan forces. Al-Qadhdhafi is the Soviets' number one man in the area. Al-Qadhdhafi turns any operation in the area in favor of the Soviet Union. I am in the habit of not putting my friends in an embarrassing position. This is why I did not inform any of my Arab colleagues of the initiative. I do not want to embarrass Carter because Carter is my good friend.

MENA: U.S. STUDYING EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT

NC072030Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1833 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text:] Washington, 7 February--U.S. administration sources have told reporters that President Anwar as-Sadat is requesting not only F-5E planes, but also the very advanced and developed F-15 and F-16 planes, which Israel is also requesting.

MENA has learned from reliable U.S. sources that the Carter administration has expressed willingness to study the Egyptian requests and to present them to Congress for approval. These sources noted that an American announcement on the administration's decision to sell arms to Egypt is expected soon.

They added that the sale of F-5E aircraft has been approved but that no commitment to sell more developed planes has yet been made, because this would require consultation with Congress before the administration can adopt a final decision.

These sources were not able to determine how many F-5E aircraft Egypt will receive, although some estimates place the number at around 50.

Among the important subjects which President as-Sadat is discussing with members of Congress is the principle of establishing an American-Egyptian military relationship which would result in the establishment of a direct line for U.S. arms sales to Egypt. However, congressional approval is necessary before the administration can establish this relationship.

President as-Sadat yesterday held detailed talks on Egypt's military needs and the military relationship during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown.

Cairo Press Reports

NC080755Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Press review]

[Text] Cairo's papers today feature reports on the talks which President Anwar as-Sadat held with U.S. officials, which dealt with Egypt's request for sophisticated arms like those obtained by Israel. The papers say that this took place during a series of meetings with U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and at two separate meetings which President as-Sadat held with the House International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The papers note that President as-Sadat asserted in his discussions with U.S. officials the importance of meeting Egypt's request for U.S. arms, which he had previously presented to President Carter in order to create a military balance in the Middle East and to help Egypt's friends in Africa. This request is particularly important in view of the Soviet Union's attitude toward Egypt since it imposed an arms embargo on Egypt and set up arms arsenals along Egypt's northern and southern borders. An arms arsenal was established in Libya and another in Ethiopia to be used against Somalia and possibly also against Sudan, thus subjecting the people of Egypt to danger.

Regarding the deterioration of the situation in the Horn of Africa following the heavy Soviet assistance to Ethiopia against the Somali liberation front revolutionaries, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR warns that the danger posed by the inferno in the Horn of Africa is increasing daily.

RADIO COMMENTARY ON AIMS OF AS-SADAT U.S. VISIT

NC031612Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 78 NC

[Commentary by Fawzi Surur: "Two Visits to the United States"]

[Text] The meetings between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter will begin in Camp David tomorrow. President as-Sadat's current visit and talks are part of the important meetings and contacts between the two sides, which are taking place within the context of the intensified Egyptian diplomatic efforts to promote the moves designed to establish peace in the Middle East. These moves have been weakened by the Israeli leaders' statements and the measures they are carrying out using Israel's security as an excuse.

It might be premature to predict the outcome of the Camp David talks which will try to eliminate the obstacles in the way of achieving peace. It is certain, however, that the discussions between the U.S. and Egyptian presidents will touch on the effects of Israel's intransigence and persistent stand with respect to the Egyptian peace initiative. The discussions will also deal with the U.S. position needed to confront the Israeli challenge, which is aimed at undermining all hopes for establishing a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. position that is needed must be based on Carter's and his administration's pledges--mostly the U.S. administration denouncement of the policy of establishing Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories--and on Israel's disregard for one of the main conditions for establishing the desired peace--the necessity of a complete withdrawal from Jerusalem and the Arab territories, which the Israeli forces occupied following their aggression against the Arabs in June 1967.

Moreover, Israel disregards the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people of repatriation and self-determination. This means that the Israeli stand, with all its implications and conditions, is a repetition of the previous Israeli position rejecting peace and of Israeli pretexts and claims which are now completely rejected. These pretexts include the preservation of Israel's security, whether through the stockpiling of various sophisticated arms or through the setting up of Israeli settlements in the Egyptian Sinai, the West Bank and the Syrian Golan and the resettlement of Jewish immigrants there in order to act as military outposts to defend Israel's so-called security.

Observers and senior officials in various world capitals are absolutely convinced that Israel's claims are untenable and rejected. Many of them have made statements denouncing Israel's stands and warning of the consequences resulting from the Israeli leaders' playing with fire in the Middle East, which is the most explosive threat to peace not only in the area but in the whole world. However, the Israeli leaders continue their policy, tampering with the prospects for peace in the area and undermining the unique opportunity provided by the Egyptian peace initiative.

Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin continues to make statements almost daily calling for the retention and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories. He also continues to reject the withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 lines on the pretext that the war which Israel waged against the Arabs that year was a defensive war. Dayan, the architect of Israeli settlements and the number one man responsible for their establishment in Arab territories, is continuing his policy in this respect, allowing extremist groups such as Gush Emunim to ruin the prospects for peace in the Middle East. Begin and the other Israeli leaders still flatly refuse to admit that the Palestinian people have legitimate rights.

In view of all this, the U.S. responsibility increases. U.S. leaders, and President Carter in particular, have opposed the establishment of Israeli settlements in Arab territories. They have made other statements calling for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Hence, the U.S. responsibility increases. The United States has several times declared its friendship with the two conflicting sides.

It is then logical and understandable that the United States act, proceeding from this principle, and begin to pressure Israel to make it abandon its traditional policy which hinders the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

It would be understandable therefore for President as-Sadat to discuss with President Carter the dangers resulting from Israel's obduracy, since Israel continues to ignore world public opinion and international laws upon which the Egyptian stand and move toward peace are based.

We will examine Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's attitude toward U.S. President Carter during his visit to Washington next week. Dayan will be followed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Peace cannot be at the mercy of hostile policies which the Israeli leaders have been reiterating regularly of late.

CAIRO PRESS ON AS-SADAT U.S. VISIT, ISRAELI ORANGES

LDO50250Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 February--In tomorrow's issues Cairo papers continue to highlight President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the United States and his talks with President Jimmy Carter. The papers prominently publish the speeches the two presidents exchanged in the White House garden following President as-Sadat's arrival.

AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH comment on the talks between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter on the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM says that the important talks between President as-Sadat and President Carter at Camp David in the midst of increasing interest in the Middle East were correctly described by President as-Sadat in his first speech at the White House when he said: "We are now at a historic and crucial crossroads and the time has come for a coordinated effort in order to build a solid peace."

The paper says: No one denies the fact that the historic peace initiative has placed the Arab-Israeli conflict in an entirely new framework that permits the establishment of a just and lasting peace based on firm values and principles on which there can be no compromise or bargaining. These include the principles of human rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination, and of independence, sovereignty, and the right to defend the homeland. Without these principles justice will fail and peace will be stillborn.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says: The U.S. involvement--both people and government--with the history of conflict in the Middle East is ancient and complex and, therefore, the United States will not be free of blame should the peace efforts be shattered on the rock of fanaticism, intransigence and indifference. Painkilling medicine and palliatives are not enough to overcome the pains of the difficult labor of a peace process. What is needed is energetic, active and clear action. On previous occasions Camp David has witnessed fateful political talks that changed the course of history. Therefore, we hope that the present talks will also be a turning point toward a real and lasting peace in the Middle East.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the world attention is now focused on the intensive talks which Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Jimmy Carter are holding.

Political observers are unanimous in saying that this round of Egyptian-U.S. summit talks is decisive for the course of the power struggle in the Middle East and for the objectives which the Egyptian struggle defined in the light of the principle that President as-Sadat has laid for the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

The paper adds: Nevertheless, the Israeli leadership insists on its intransigent attitude toward the question of just peace. Indeed, it sought to poison the international political atmosphere and arouse it against the Palestinian rights on the eve of the As-Sadat-Carter talks by committing the crime of poisoning oranges. Many international quarters have pointed accusing fingers at Israeli quarters that do not care for peace, or the rights of the Palestinians, or the life of innocent people in Europe, but instead are interested in the continuation of occupation and the usurpation of the Palestinian people's rights.

President Carter, the paper concludes, declared his rejection of Israeli settlements on Arab soil, confirmed his support for the Palestinian people's rights to establish a national homeland, and yesterday declared that the United States will continue its efforts and responsibilities for achieving a settlement. It now remains for the U.S. political leadership to translate these declarations into actions and effective and fruitful efforts to achieve stability for the Middle East people.

In an article entitled "The War of Oranges in Europe," AL-AKHBAR says that when the incident of poisoned Israeli oranges in Europe came to the surface a few days ago Israel hastened to accuse the Palestinians. Menahem Begin linked the appearance of poisonous oranges with the fear of the emergence of a Palestinian state that would poison the Israeli orange groves.

The paper adds: Israel has tried to exploit this incident in order to harm the relations between Europe and the United States on one hand and Europe and the Arabs on the other. It did so by fabricating the name of an imaginary organization and accusing it of poisoning the oranges. But the Israeli accusation against the Palestinians has backfired when the truth emerged: The case of the poisoned Israeli oranges was part of a major battle going on among citrus producers in Israel, Italy and Spain. Spanish citrus exporters accused Israeli agents of poisoning Spanish oranges in order to destroy its reputation in European markets and lessen the marketing damages caused by the accusations of poisoned exported Israeli oranges.

Concluding, the paper says: Now that the truth has emerged, the accusations against the Palestinians are no longer valid. This incident is reminiscent of what happened in 1954 when Israel tried to blow up U.S. installations in Cairo in order to disrupt relations between Egypt and the United States, the incident that later came to be known as the Lavon affair.

AL-AHRAM ON BEGIN'S OBSOLETE REJECTION OF PEACE

NC070845Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM deals with the obsolete ideas rejecting peace efforts. The paper says that these ideas resemble a trap encircling Begin.

AL-AHRAM says: In his statements yesterday, Begin once again remained trapped in the quagmire of his obsolete ideas rejecting the peace efforts. He described Egypt's demands for the return to the 1967 lines and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza strip as unreasonable.

These statements by Begin come at the same time as Egyptian and U.S. efforts are being exerted to maintain the momentum of the peace process and to overcome the obstacles in its way, as was stated in the press statement issued by the White House. Begin's statements affirm that the Israeli challenge to the desire for peace, which the world shares with us, is indicative of the Israeli opposition to the peace efforts.

The U.S. press statement on the Camp David talks stresses that the obstacles which led to the suspension of the political talks still remain and that Washington has decided that Atherton will return to the area. The statement also affirms that Egypt gave its historic initiative a big start, providing a real opportunity for peace following 30 years of conflict. However, the statement does not clearly point to the responsibility which Israel must assume in this respect and to the obstacles Israel is placing in the way of the peace efforts.

Israel's objection to withdrawal to the 1967 lines and to the right of self-determination for the Palestinians is tantamount to imposing new demands with which Israel seeks to win new territory. This led President as-Sadat to say that he felt that the discussions were moving along the wrong path. It is natural and logical that the discussions were stopped at that point. If Atherton's efforts succeed in reaching an agreement on the principles of a settlement, the efforts to pull Begin from the whirlpool of his obsolete ideas might succeed.

FOUNDATION OF NEW AL-WAFD PARTY APPROVED

NC041232Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 February--The committee for examining the applications of new parties has unanimously approved the foundation of the Egyptian New Al-Wafd Party [hizb al-wafd al-masri al-jadid].

This was announced today by the Central Committee first secretary, Dr Mustafa Khalil, at a press conference which was attended by committee members Muhammad Hamid Mahmud, minister of state for local government and popular organizations; Maj Gen Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, minister of the interior; Ahmad Samih Tal'at, minister of justice; and counselors Muhammad Salamah, 'Abd as-Salam Balba' and Muhammad Shalabi. The conference was also attended by press and news agency reporters.

Mustafa Khalil Statement

NC041330Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Dr Mustafa Khalil, the ASU Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the committee for examining the applications of new parties, announced at a press conference at noon today the establishment of the New Al-Wafd Party. The committee for examining party applications unanimously approved the formation of the New Al-Wafd Party.

Khalil said that the committee has been able to determine that the program of the New Al-Wafd party is not the same as that of the old Al-Wafd Party and that the new party looks to the future. He asserted that although many of the founding members of the new party were members of the old party, the formation of the new party was announced on the basis of the corrective revolution, supremacy of the law and strengthening of democratic practices.

Khalil said that the committee debated the conditions relating to the law on political parties and decided that the party's principles do not conflict with the principles of Islamic law, national unity and a democratic socialist system. He pointed out that some amendments were introduced to the party's principles and program, and the party's founders have approved them. The founders, he added, have declared their adherence to the July and corrective revolutions, socialism, democracy, supremacy of the law, alliance of the forces of the working people and the guaranteeing of the rights of workers and peasants.

The committee has also approved the party's table of organization and program. Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the committee adopted a completely neutral, objective and noncommittal stand throughout its deliberations and discussion of all issues related to the New Al-Wafd Party from the political, legal and constitutional aspects. The committee, he added, followed its conscience in carrying out its responsibility in an atmosphere of full freedom, thanks to the 15 May revolution. After its deliberations, the committee decided to announce the establishment of the New Al-Wafd Party.

Ibrahim Faraj, the legal agent of the founders of the New Al-Wafd Party, made a speech in which he thanked President as-Sadat for the democratic atmosphere and for the freedom prevailing in Egypt which allowed the formation of the New Al-Wafd Party, which will contribute to the building of Egypt.

QNA REPORTS ARREST OF LEFTWING PARTY LEADERS

NC060847Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--Egyptian Minister of Interior Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il has said that some leaders of the Egyptian Leftwing Party have been arrested in the Al-Ma'adi and 'Abidin areas in the Egyptian capital and in Al-Minufiyah Province and charged with circulating leaflets, raising doubts and causing unrest.

The Egyptian minister of interior said that the leaders of the Leftwing Party are still incapable of working openly and are continuing their cooperation with underground communist parties, although it is legally recognized as a party.

The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR, which reports on this today, says that Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il stressed during his meeting yesterday with leaders of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt that the Leftwing Party leaders attempted to celebrate the anniversary of the sabotage operations of 18 and 19 January but they were forbidden because they wanted to portray the sabotage as a nationalist and heroic action and to incite the masses.

The paper reports that the minister affirmed at the meeting that the Egyptian domestic front enjoys political and social stability. He also stressed that in order to establish democracy on firm foundations some time will be required because we had no democracy during the first 25 years of our republic. He called on the party's cadres to oppose hostile ideological currents.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL

NC051429Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 5 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent a message to FRG President Walter Scheel explaining the developments in the Middle East and the current contacts in this respect.

The message also explains Egypt's principled stand on the need for complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and the right of all peoples of the areas to live in peace and within secure borders. The message was handed to the FRG ambassador in Cairo by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Salah ad-Din Hasan.

GHALI RECEIVES VISITING SWEDISH UN REPRESENTATIVE

JN061929Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Anders Thunborg, Swedish permanent representative to the United Nations, who is currently visiting Cairo. The discussion during the meeting dealt with developments in the Middle East, important international issues, and relations between Egypt and Sweden.

Dr Ghali affirmed Egypt's stand based on the necessity of a just and comprehensive solution based on withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the right of all peoples in the area to live within secure borders. Dr Ghali also affirmed Egypt's rejection of the presence of Israeli settlements on Arab soil, the existence of which is a violation of all international laws and charters.

FRENCH SENATE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO 6 FEB

NC061150Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 February--A French Senate delegation led by Dr Michel (Mardaux), the secretary general of the group of republicans and independents in the French parliament, arrived in Cairo today on a 10-day visit to Egypt.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION LEAVES FOR WORLD BANK TALKS

NC041343Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 February--An Egyptian economic delegation left Cairo for Washington today on a 1-week visit to the United States. During its stay there, the delegation will hold talks with IERD officials on obtaining a \$40-million loan on easy terms. The loan will be used for bolstering and developing certain small industries.

The delegation consists of 'Abd al-Hamid Qayudan, director of the Industrial Development Bank; Samir Karam, Economy Ministry under secretary; and Samir al-Qasri, deputy governor of the Central Bank. The Industrial Development Bank has already obtained two loans from the IERD worth \$60 million.

EXPLOITATION PLANS FOR OIL IN SUEZ GULF REVEALED

NC041525Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 February--A responsible source in the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation has stated that yesterday the West German Deminex Company legally gave up one-quarter of the area of its concession in the Gulf of Suez, in accordance with the terms of the agreement signed between the corporation and the company in February 1974.

The agreement provided that 4 years after the signing of the agreement, the company would give up 500 square kilometers, one-quarter of the area of concession.

Since it started its search for oil in the Gulf of Suez, the Deminex Company has made three important oil discoveries: discovery No 87/1 in 1975; discovery No 87/2 in 1976; and discovery No 85. The third discovery is the most important one in view of the thickness of the oil layer and the volume of production.

The source said that a complete plan is being drawn up to exploit these three discoveries by laying pipelines from the discovery sites in the gulf to the shore. The initial production from the three discoveries will be in the range of 20,000-40,000 barrels daily.

The source said that the corporation intends to offer the areas given up by the Deminex Company in one international bid in the next few days. The source said that international oil companies had shown great interest in these areas months before they were given up, in view of the great possibility of oil discoveries in them. This shows the significance of the Suez Gulf basin as one of the most important oil areas in the world.

COTTON EXPORTS INCREASE DESPITE SUSPENSION TO USSR

NC060854Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--The value of Egypt's cotton exports in 1977 increased by 77,037,184 Egyptian pounds compared with 1976, despite the suspension of cotton exports to the Soviet Union since last August. A report which Trade and Supply Minister Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah has prepared for submission to the cabinet says that the total value of Egyptian cotton exports in 1977 was 229,813,379 Egyptian pounds, of which 97,262,662 pounds were in hard currencies. This compared with 152,776,195 pounds in 1976, of which 50,302,755 pounds were in hard currencies.

The total amount of cotton exported in 1977 was 570,881 bales, compared with 506,324 bales in 1976.

BRIEFS

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH SUDAN--A trade protocol for 1978 was signed between Egypt and Sudan today by Egyptian trade and Supply Minister Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah and Sudanese Trade Minister Harun al-'Awad. The volume of trade between the two countries is expected to reach \$89 million compared with \$56.2 million in 1977, an increase of 60 percent. The two sides agreed on further cuts in customs duties on certain commodities and on keeping the export-import prices compatible with free currency exchange prices. [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC]

PRESIDENT AL-BAKR SPEAKS ON MIDEAST SITUATION

JN080957Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0730 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Speech by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr delivered at Al-Muthanna Airport to mark the 15th anniversary of the 14 Ramadan, 8 February 1963 revolution and the eighth anniversary of the popular army--live]

[Text] Citizens, brave fighters, masses of the great Arab nation, the occasion we are celebrating today is dear because it is the anniversary of the 8 February 1963 revolution. In that revolution the arms of the revolutionaries of the people's masses and the armed forces joined under the banner of your leading party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and launched that distinguished courageous revolution in the history of our country and nation.

Two years ago on this spot and on the same occasion we met to review groups of the popular army for the first time. We are meeting today to review these groups again. Here in Baghdad we are reviewing 50,000 fighters. All the governorates are witnessing parades of the popular army in which thousands of fighters are taking part.

The popular army has increased in number, experience and enthusiasm. Today the popular army is the struggling revolutionary group and a great support for the brave armed forces. This army is progressing under the revolution and under the banner of its great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Progress is being made in every domain in our country. Your revolution, which has strongly and proudly entered its 10th year, it expanding and developing with great enthusiasm, firm determination and on a firm scientific revolutionary course. Many of the aspirations and aims which the masses have hoped for during the many years of bitter struggle have materialized and become an accomplished fact which the people are experiencing and are proud of. We will continue, God willing, our march with complete confidence and strength.

This high principled spirit and the firm stands which characterized the 17 July revolution and which were given to it by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's principles and revolutionary authenticity have become a prominent and distinguished landmark. It is necessary today as it was necessary yesterday, not only to express the national need for a comprehensive and firm principled course inspiring the people in their daily struggle and in the comprehensive building operation but also to express the urgent pan-Arab need of firm principles and clear and comprehensive stands, which do not change at turning points or in storms, to inspire the nation in its long struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

Our Arab nation is now passing through a delicate and difficult phase. During this phase the full truth must be told and the road must be clearly defined. We must not confuse the issue or conceal the facts because we will thus become weaker and lose more.

We have frankly and clearly defined our positions on the events taking place in the Arab homeland. Because of this we have had and are still suffering much harm and difficulty. We have condemned President As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territory and consider it a serious violation of the rights, dignity and future of the Arab nation, in fact, a deviation from the will of the nation and a great danger to its future aspirations for liberation and progress. But we have also said at the same time that the error and danger lie not only in this visit, but in concentrating on it and ignoring the other dangerous aspects which constitute fundamental factors of the current state of the Arab situation.

We have warned for many years by various means of enlightenment, out of care and responsibility, against the evil consequences of continuing along the course of settlement. We have said that this course is not a mere political opinion, tactic or flexible political stand, but an integrated course in the various ideological, political, military and economic domains, and that it will preoccupy the local, Arab and international arenas. To proceed along this course under the current circumstances of the Arab nation--because the existing forces are tilted in favor of imperialism and Zionism--will result in retreat from the pan-Arab rights and the progressive and liberating principles and in gradually proceeding in accordance with the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plan. A settlement in our area and in our condition is a synonym and cover for apostasy and imperialist influence, and it is a grave mistake to separate the two. We have said to our Arab brothers that the way out of this complicated and deteriorating situation does not consist of concentrating on the results but on the causes, not of criticizing one link in the series while adhering to other links.

The earnest work which we need to do consists of a sincere, earnest and comprehensive review of the past march of the revolution and of following a firm line of struggle in all the political, economic, military and ideological domains. We also need to pool the Arab progressive forces and all the good forces on the basis of a single clear program which is not ambiguous and leaves no room for maneuvers, retreats and tightrope walking. Under this program, each one of us must assume his responsibilities according to his capability. The method of replying by a temporary uproar or partial steps will not achieve any new and useful results. In the end those who will benefit will be the imperialists, Zionists and those proceeding with capitulatory policies.

We have expressed this opinion clearly. We have spoken about it with responsibility and patience. We have also expressed our readiness to cooperate with the brothers with a view to achieving a joint program which will secure at least the minimum of the requirements of the serious struggle along the road of liberation. But we say with great pain and sorrow that the methods of maneuvering are still being adopted. Thus, the nation is deprived of the opportunity of serious national action. Those who have adopted the political settlement method and weakened the nation's positions still insist on following this course.

It is clear that some of these people want us to agree with them on their weak and, in fact, devious policies, which have been proven harmful to the nation and to its sacred cause. These people do not want to agree on a serious pan-Arab course required by national interests, which will enhance the resources of the nation, strengthen its positions and build the necessary base to continue the struggle for liberation and make good use of time, whatever the sacrifices.

With the frankness of men who uphold principles and before the Arab masses, we refuse to link our stand to these policies, which have taken the nation to this precipice, no matter what difficulties we will be subjected to because of this stand. The question is not one of appeasement or leniency. The question affects the destiny and rights of the nation, as well as the destiny of the Arab movement of liberation and progress. History and the nation will judge us and others by what we say and do.

We told our brothers about the bases we believe in for establishing the Arab progressive front [al-jabha at-taqaddimiyah al-'arabiyah] in the charter we proposed. In our letter to brother President Boumediene we outlined the fundamental points which we believe to be a decisive indication in this direction. The first point is the Syrian regime's stand toward the settlement march, which has led the Arab situation to a state of deterioration and disintegration. As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territory was a result of this march.

The second point is Syria's position on the situation in Lebanon and its readiness to adopt practical and sincere stands to strengthen the positions of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement and thus bolster Lebanon's unity and stability and preserve its Arabism. The third point is the Syrian regime's readiness to accept the stationing of Iraqi forces and forces from other Arab states--members of the progressive front--on the Syrian front so these forces would be a tangible material guarantee for the political line opposing imperialist and Zionist plots. Thus, this line will not remain a mere political stand, which in fact has no effect.

Citizens, our firm principled stands have been exposed for several years and are being subjected these days to attempts to mislead and distort. The forces which fear to commit themselves to principles and frank speech refuse to face the strugglers directly. They resort to maneuvers and fabricate lies directly or through their lackeys. We have suffered much from this method, but we will not fear to suffer from it in the future.

Certain people say that when Iraq insists on its principled stand, it wants to evade its pan-Arab responsibilities. What is Iraq evading? Is it evading preparations for the war and its participation in it? Our answer to them and to their lackey collaborators is that the heroic Iraqi Army performed its pan-Arab task in the October war with all its capability. The Iraqi Army fought with those who even until the eve of the war were defaming Iraq and leveling accusations against it.

Two years ago, in May 1976, certain brothers asked us to send our forces to the Syrian front to strengthen the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab Army in confronting possible dangers and in preparation for the war. This was on the basis of specific pledges providing that the Syrian regime would abandon the settlement policy. We accepted the call and agreed to the program proposed to us. We moved our forces to the borders promptly. However, the Syrian regime reneged on the pledges it had made a few days before. The Syrian regime deployed some of its forces to face our forces, as if they were foreign invading forces that had come to attack it. At the same time the Syrian regime sent some of its forces to Lebanon to slaughter the Palestinian forces and the Lebanese nationalist forces and to further destroy this Arab country and increase the tragedies of its patient people.

After As-Sadat's visit, we called on the brothers to establish a real front, a front in which the military, political and economic commitments would be specified, on the basis of a clear political and practical line in harmony with our principles and morals as Arabs, and one which would insure our rights as a nation. Instead of responding to this sincere call, lies began to be bandied about by traitorous and lackey sources about Iraq's stand and intentions. Certain parties reached the point of spreading rumors through their hirelings, information media that Iraq was evading its pan-Arab responsibilities out of fear of its internal situation and neighbors. However, in reply to their lies, although they know that what we say is true, we say that the internal situation in Iraq is now stronger than ever before. Let them pity themselves. The revolution has created a unified, strong Iraqi society which no one can harm.

Everyone knows that we fought the battle of the people--the October war--with courage and high military capability at a time when there were saboteurs in Iraq and when our relations with our neighbors were bad. How could we fail today to fulfill our pan-Arab commitments at a time when Iraq has strengthened its forces?

Let all those who are concerned hear this: Iraq will not fear anyone when it decides to fight the battle of honor to liberate the occupied Arab territory. Iraq is able to defend its sacred soil and simultaneously to fulfill the pan-Arab tasks in restoring the usurped Arab land. Our brave armed forces can perform their national [watani] and pan-Arab [al-qawmi] duties at the same time. These brave fighters of the popular army are adding a striking force to the Iraqi Army. They are carrying arms in every corner of Iraq. The glorious sons of Iraq, the sons of the great July Revolution, are all capable of carrying arms to defend Iraq, their homeland and sovereignty. At the same time they are struggling for the sake of their nation. We do not fear anyone, nor do we evade our duties. We are advocates of principles and will not back down on them in the markets of lies and maneuvers. What we ask of others is truth, seriousness and firmness in stands. Only this will save the nation from the current situation and place it on the path of strength and victory.

Citizens, the conditions our nation is passing through at this stage have regrettably created inaccurate and rash visualizations and assessments by certain sides both in the area and in the world. It is true that the appearance of the current situation in the area is dominated by weakness and divisions. It is true that this lures certain sides into adopting certain policies based on this assessment. However, those who must make correct assessments of affairs must comprehend that the current conditions will not continue and that big wagers on this situation are erroneous. In our assessment, the sound path is to pursue a firm policy based on not harming the interests of others. This firm policy must be based on respect for the sovereignty and vital interests of all parties in all political, military and economic behavior. Our area is very sensitive, since there are vital interests that involve many countries and people in the world other than its own people. For this reason, the course which will achieve useful results for everyone in the long run is the course that is built on stable assessments and conditions.

Many countries in the area and the world have given balanced support to Arab rights. We have considered this support acceptable despite our specific stand toward the Palestinian question. We have been concerned about developing our relations with these countries despite the fact that we have begun to see some of these countries going ahead in support of As-Sadat's stand, although this stand does not have minimum Arab support. For this reason the position we ask these countries to adopt is to maintain their balanced, firm stand and not to rush ahead in adopting stands which are not supported by the Arab majority.

Iraq has been very careful to honor all its pledges and to maintain balanced relations through which it has appreciated the circumstances and legitimate interests of everyone. It has called for strong ties with the countries of the region and the world at large. It has also called for the maintenance of security and stability in the waterways, through which the vital interests of all the countries of the region are flowing, away from imperialist interventions and individual roles on the basis of freedom of passage in these waterways in accordance with laws and pacts.

Iraq is still very careful to preserve these principles and hopes that these principles and bases will govern existing relations and policies in the region and in the world.

We particularly believe that the Arab nation has the right to ask all those linked to it by ties of history and friendship to help it in its honorable battle to regain its usurped territory and rights. They should not encourage trends harmful to the Arab nation. What we are calling for in this respect is a guarantee [daman] for everyone.

As for the continued existence of the Zionist aggression in the region, covering up this aggression by various direct and indirect methods and also encouraging policies which harm the nation will not benefit anyone in the end.

Iraq, which respects everyone and appreciates and respects their efforts and legitimate interests, cannot just stand by when its vital interests are threatened and when the Arab nation is exposed to harm. We must all remember the sensitivity of our region and its susceptibility to tension and explosion. Therefore, let us not wager on transient conditions. What is important are firm policies and building the future on sound bases. This will achieve the aspirations of all for stability, progress and prosperity.

Fighters, masses of our struggler people, the path we have chosen--the path of freedom and dignity and the path of faith in the people and the achievement of their interests and hopes--is the hardships we suffer and the sacrifices we make. The revolution led by your party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has chosen the difficult path, but it is very confident that this is the path which leads to victory.

What we are saying is not wishful thinking or dreaming, but it is based on a background of achievements made by the revolution in the past few years and on the striking force standing behind this revolution and its revolutionary leadership, the force of all the brave Iraqi people, who, when the time comes, double their strength, steadfastness and sacrifices, backed by the resources of Arab revolutionaries and the support of all the friendly and honorable forces in the world.

The course, principles and morals of the revolution have all proved the correctness of the revolution. They have also proved that the revolution is the firm guarantee for every free honorable citizen in this country and for the whole Arab nation. Therefore, let us strongly hold to this course and to these principles and morals. You should always be true to your nature and to the glorious past of your predecessors, men who were truthful, courageous and ready at any time to make sacrifices. Safeguard your principles, your national soil and the sovereignty and dignity of your nation. Hold on to your guns at all times. Peace, dignity and happiness will not be achieved for our great homeland unless we are capable and ready. We are indeed ready to fight for the sake of the mission and to make the biggest sacrifices.

I greet you, oh men and women, oh brave fighters coming from the plantations, factories, schools and government establishments. You are carrying arms with strength and determination. You are proving that when the people control their own affairs and destiny they can double their strength and achieve miracles.

Greetings to you from the leadership of your party and revolution. Greetings to our victorious armed forces, which are gaining more experience and determination in preparation for sacrifices in defending the homeland and the rights of the nation.

Glory and immortality to the martyrs of the great Ramadan revolution. Glory and immortality to the martyrs of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Glory and immortality to the martyrs of the Arab nation wherever they may be. Long live the great Iraqi people. May the flag of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party wave sky high until the party achieves its objectives for unity, freedom and socialism. Peace be on you.

V. 8 Feb 78

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IRAQ

AAPSO DELEGATION CONFERS WITH IRAQI PEACE COUNCIL

JN051552Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 5 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 February--The delegation of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] under Dr Vassos Lissaridhis, vice chairman of the organization, conferred in Baghdad today with a delegation of the Iraqi Peace Council under the council's secretary general, 'Aziz Sharif.

During the meeting, Dr Lissaridhis explained the difficulties and the main problems facing the organization's movement in general. The organization's Assistant Secretary General Nuri 'Abd ar-Razzaq reviewed the working program of the organization's Presidium which will meet in Cyprus on 17 March. It was agreed during the meeting that the organization's activities should at present be directed to the struggle against aggression and to confronting the imperialist and reactionary attempts which are aimed at splitting the organization.

It will be noted that Dr Lissaridhis, who is also the leader of the Cypriot socialist party, [the United Democratic Union of the Center], and the accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit to Iraq.

Talks With Ba'th Official

JN061114Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 February--A meeting was held here last night between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and AAPSO. The Ba'th Party side was headed by Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and the AAPSO side by Dr Vassos Lissaridhis, AAPSO deputy chairman and leader of the Cypriot United Democratic Union of the Center. The talks dealt with means to bolster cooperation in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Dr ar-Razzaz reviewed the role played by the Ba'th Party at the pan-Arab level and in confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation. He pointed out that imperialism is drawing up plans involving the whole world but that it gives priority to the Middle East.

Dr ar-Razzaz stressed the interest the Iraqi political leadership has in the AAPSO. He said that the AAPSO acts to insure all requirements necessary to perform its international tasks.

Dr Lissaridhis reviewed the great role played by AAPSO in the struggle against colonialism and Zionism. He touched on AAPSO's continued support for liberation movements and progressive forces in the world. It should be recalled that the AAPSO delegation came to Iraq 2 days ago.

Concludes Visit

JN071534Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 February--Vassos Lissaridhis, vice president of the AAPSO Presidium and secretary general of the Cypriot United Democratic Union of the Center, left Baghdad today after taking part in the consultative meeting to prepare for the third AAPSO conference.

In a statement Lissaridhis said that Iraq is playing an important and significant role in the AAPSO movement. He described his talks with Iraqi officials as successful and fruitful. He said that the talks dealt with issues of joint interest and the coordination of attitudes and activities. The talks were conducted in a spirit of cordiality and understanding, he added.

KING HUSAYN REITERATES VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

DW071058Y Hamburg SPIEGEL in German 6 Feb 78 pp 111-112 DW

[Interview with King Husayn, date and place of interview not stated]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Your Majesty, President as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem has gained sympathy throughout the world for the Arabs. You, are also considered a courageous and peaceloving statesman. Why do you not follow As-Sadat's example and participate in the Arab-Israeli negotiations?

Husayn: I am glad that, as a result of President as-Sadat's initiative the world at long last acknowledges what moves the overwhelming majority of the Arabs. Just recently we promised President as-Sadat our full support.

SPIEGEL: But you have not yet joined his peace policy. Are you offended because President as-Sadat failed to consult you before he went to Israel?

Husayn: I give him credit for not wanting to confront us with such a difficult decision. But it would have been better if he had informed his colleagues about his travel plans.

SPIEGEL: Did the Egyptian president, as far as you know, coordinate his peace initiative with the Americans beforehand?

Husayn: As-Sadat surprised the whole world, including President Carter who told me so himself. We, the Arab confrontation states of Jordan and Syria, were still in the process of preparing for a Middle East conference in Geneva when As-Sadat ventured his lone action. After President as-Sadat had decided with the Israelis in Jerusalem to continue the contacts, we Jordanians were prepared nevertheless to join the negotiations.

SPIEGEL: Still, it was only Egyptians and Israelis who negotiated in the Cairo Mena House later.

Husayn: We would have come if the other Arab states had participated as well. We consider it an important task to promote the cohesion of the Arab states party to the conflict.

SPIEGEL: You mean you are placing Arab solidarity in first place? But your very participation in the Egyptian-Israeli dialog could bring the other partners to the negotiating table. Besides, this would do away with the charge that As-Sadat merely pursues a separate solution with Israel.

Husayn: I think As-Sadat does not expect more of us now than what we have done: show understanding for his action. For As-Sadat first of all intends to reconnoiter the existing possibilities. Then every Arab state concerned must decide by itself whether it wishes to participate in the negotiations. This is how President as-Sadat explained it to me.

SPIEGEL: If Egypt and Israel achieve the joint declaration of intent which they pursue, would this not mean that the time might have come for Jordan to join the negotiations?

Husayn: Should this declaration of intent contain the evacuation of the occupied Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinians, then this would not only mean that the time has come for us; in that case the other Arab states, too, could no longer dodge constructive cooperation.

SPIEGEL: Hence, you are raising prior conditions for a participation in As-Sadat's peace initiative?

Husayn: We demand the complete withdrawal of the Israelis from all Arab territories occupied in 1967. Any border alterations on the West Bank of the Jordan River must remain minimal and can only mean an exchange of territory. The return of the Arab sectors of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty is indispensable.

SPIEGEL: Are there no final targets? Once you yourself mentioned UN trusteeship as a temporary solution for West Jordan and the Gaza Strip. How long was this supposed to last?

Husayn: If 5 years were mentioned, this would be acceptable. UN trusteeship means that, however, the Israelis must withdraw. I would like to make the following clear in regard to Jerusalem, something the world public, in my opinion, does not realize correctly: The Jerusalem problem is not just a problem of free access to the holy places. After the 1976 war, Israel has annexed enormous areas around the town which it now considers as belonging to Jerusalem. All these areas must be returned to Arab supreme authority.

SPIEGEL: Plans are said to exist according to which moderate Moslem states such as Morocco and Iran as well as the Vatican could administer east Jerusalem during a transition period.

Husayn: The decisive thing is that east Jerusalem in the final phase must be Arab again.

SPIEGEL: The Egyptians and Israelis did not discuss Jerusalem so far. Negotiations almost failed in connection with an issue that was comparatively free of problems: Jewish settlements in the occupied areas. Do you see a possibility for the continued existence of these settlements after a peace agreement?

Husayn: First of all Israel must stop building new settlements and continuing to change the map. I see no possibility for the continued existence of these settlements. Peace means: No settlements on Arab territory which has been occupied since 1967.

SPIEGEL: Are you of the opinion that West Jordan and the Gaza Strip should establish a new state after the withdrawal of the Israelis?

Husayn: The Palestinian inhabitants of these areas must freely decide on their future. But I can imagine that a federal state could be the best solution. In other words: close ties with Jordan.

SPIEGEL: Do you think that the majority of the population here would decide in favor of such a federal state and not of a PLO state?

Husayn: Yes, I believe so because relations between these areas and Jordan are very close, and because we have joint interests. But I would accept every other decision as well.

SPIEGEL: You are maintaining close relations with your neighbor Syria. They have been endangered now because you approved of As-Sadat's initiative while the Syrians defected to the radicals of the anti-As-Sadat front.

Husayn: In the interest of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples we cannot have our decisions prescribed by others. We can act only according to our conscience.

SPIEGEL: So President As-Sadat's initiative regarding a dialog with Israel was no mistake?

Husayn: Regardless what others may think, it was no mistake. This initiative will produce results--this way or that way. If the result will be in line with what As-Sadat has pointed out in his Jerusalem speech--retreat of the Israelis from Arab territories, solution of the Palestinian problem--we will be deeply indebted to As-Sadat. If As-Sadat's initiative fails due to Israeli intransigence, everybody will know that the dream about peace cannot come true and who is responsible for that.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat says that a failure of his peace mission would be a catastrophe.

Husayn: Failure would be total catastrophe. Then the whole world would be threatened.

ARMY RECRUITS, ARAB DETERRENT FORCES CLASH

NC071150Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese Army and the Arab deterrent forces command have issued the following communique:

This morning, 7 February 1978, a quarrel occurred for personal reasons between some new recruits and Arab deterrent forces personnel manning a roadblock outside Al-Aghrar barracks in Al-Fayyadiyah. This led to an exchange of fire. The incident was immediately contained by the Lebanese Army and the Arab deterrent forces command. The two commands will adopt stringent disciplinary measures against the perpetrators.

Butrus Comments

NC071202Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Affairs and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus has expressed sadness over the regrettable incident which occurred this morning outside the barracks in Al-Fayyadiyah between Arab deterrent forces and some Lebanese Army elements. He said he hopes that an atmosphere of serenity will be restored in the public interest. He said: I am confident that all the commands responsible will adopt the necessary arrangements to avoid any adverse reactions, and will adopt all the measures which their joint interests dictate.

SECURITY MEASURES INCREASE IN BEIRUT, SUBURBS

NC070738Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The security measures which have been taken in Beirut and its suburbs will continue to be enforced today in accordance with a plan designed to achieve better control of the situation, until complete security is established. Yesterday, the citizens noticed that the number of patrols and roadblocks had increased in the capital and its suburbs--facts which have prompted a number of questions. Answering these questions, an official source of the Arab deterrent forces command said that the measures taken will continue in force until matters are finally brought under control, especially in the wake of the recent bombings.

DETERRENT FORCES CONFISCATE ARMS, DETAIN PALESTINIANS

NC071207Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique: At 0230 on 6 February 1978, Palestinian elements belonging to a certain Palestinian organization kidnaped 'Adil Matar and Hanna Joseph Matar of An-Na'imah township and took them to an undisclosed area. At 1700 it was discovered that the two persons had been killed. At 0600 on 7 February 1978, the Arab deterrent forces adopted the following measures:

1. The forces cordoned off An-Na'imah and Harit An-Na'imah. They searched the area and purged it of elements belonging to Palestinian organizations. The forces detained a number of armed men, who are now being investigated.
2. A deterrent forces unit took up a position in An-Na'imah township and confiscated nine weapons found in an office belonging to a certain organization.

3. At 1200 the same day, the three killers--Ahmad Fayyad 'Azza, 'Ali Muhammad 'Abd al-Latif and Salah Talib Fayyad Ghayth--surrendered to the Arab deterrent forces through the PLO command. They are being investigated. They will be referred to the military court for a just penalty.

INA REPORTS ON FIGHTING FOR AL-KHIYAM IN SOUTH

JN071043Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 February--The joint nationalist forces have repulsed an attack launched by the rightwing forces on Al-Khiyam town last night. The INA correspondent in the south has stated that the axis of Al-Khiyam and Marj 'Uyun in the eastern sector of the border area for the third day running has been the scene of heavy artillery duels, resulting in the destruction of several houses and in a number of fires.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS CLASHES IN SOUTH

NC080706Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] In southern Lebanon the armed Palestinians retreated from the border axes following fierce clashes with Lebanese citizens. The Palestinians suffered at least 7 killed and 12 wounded.

The indignation of the southern citizens over Palestinian activities has increased. There was a tumultuous demonstration in An-Nabatiyah yesterday. The stores closed down in Sidon around noon yesterday when one of the banks was raided. While an employee was carrying a bag into the bank, a number of armed men attacked him and ran away with the bag.

BEIRUT RADIO ON SECURITY MEASURES, ISRAELI REPORTS

NC080615Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The measures which have been taken to establish an atmosphere of security and stability are still the main topics which are getting the attention of Lebanese circles. After the sides responsible for establishing security succeeded in containing the Al-Fayyadiyah incident and restoring an atmosphere of tranquillity and reassurance to An-Na'imah and Harit An-Na'imah townships, some sides have been spreading tendentious rumors about sporadic clashes between the Arab deterrent forces and units of the Lebanese Army.

In its 2030 newscast last night, the Israeli radio reported a clash between units of the Lebanese Army stationed in the Riyaq barracks and the Arab deterrent forces. A responsible source at the Arab deterrent forces command has said that this report is completely unfounded.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS NEW CLASH IN AL-FAYYADIYAH

NC080915Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0907 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] A clash took place this morning, Thursday, in the Al-Fayyadiyah quarter between the same elements which clashed yesterday. Efforts are being made by officials and all sides to contain these regrettable incidents.

Efforts To Contain Clash Continue

NC081025Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Efforts are continuing to contain the clash which took place in Al-Fayyadiyah quarter this morning. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has been following the developments in the security situation from his office at Government House.

He has held a number of contacts with the commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, the Lebanese Army command and various commanders of the Internal Security Forces. Al-Huss has discussed the current situation with Interior Minister Dr Salah Salameh. Interior Ministry Military Adviser Col Mahmud Abu Dargham attended the meeting.

INA REPORTS SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS IN AL-KURAH AREA

JN081057Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 February--An explosive charge went off yesterday evening in a building in Al-Kurah area in northern Lebanon, damaging an empty movie theater. The INA correspondent in the north says that there is a rightist plan to explode the situation in Al-Kurah, whose inhabitants oppose the rightist front's plans. Al-Kurah area recently witnessed a number of explosions, especially in Amyun and Ra's al-'Ayn townships.

INA REPORTS ISRAELIS OCCUPY YARUN AREA IN SOUTH

JN081055Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 February--The Palestinian news agency has reported that the Zionist forces last night occupied Yarun in southern Lebanon and a wide area around this township. The news agency added that these forces entered the township, 5 km from the borders of occupied Palestine, after paving the way for the attack with artillery shelling and machinegun fire. The Palestinian news agency further said that the Zionist forces yesterday began placing barbed wire around the township to prevent the population from leaving it and others from entering it.

NATIONALISTS, PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE REACH AGREEMENT

JN081100Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 February--The commands of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance have reached agreement on the situation in southern Lebanon and on firmly dealing with all infringements.

A statement issued last night by the central political council of the Lebanese nationalist forces and parties said the two commands decided to pull armed men out of the towns, villages, populated areas and roads and to send them where their presence is dictated by national security and the duty to defend the south.

The statement strongly condemned the explosions, kidnaping of certain citizens and clashes witnessed in Lebanon recently. The statement pointed out that the council deems these incidents as aimed at disturbing security in Lebanon. Suspicious quarters are responsible for the disturbance of security in Lebanon. Such disturbance of security constitutes the essence of the plan of these quarters, which is aimed at aborting every possible political solution to the Lebanese crisis.

POLITICIANS MAKE STATEMENTS AFTER MEETING SARKIS

NC071910Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The general situation in the country, particularly ways to establish security and stability, was the center of attention of officials today. President Ilyas Sarkis today received Shaykh Pierre al-Junayyil and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in separate meetings. Karami was later invited to lunch with the president.

After his almost 2-hour meeting, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil made the following statement: First of all, we must agree on a Lebanese formula for permanent peace. President Sarkis is exerting utmost efforts to bring about accord among the Lebanese. Replying to a question, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: We are now seeking to bring about national detente quickly. Any accord must be based on knowing what kind of Lebanon we want. He added: All the Lebanese want coexistence. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil continued: In light of the experience we had before and after 1943, particularly in the period from 1970 to 1975, I believe that we can improve on this coexistence formula, which I consider the best and most preferable. It remains for the Lebanese to find a way to consolidate and strengthen this coexistence.

Regarding the impact the reelection of President al-Asad will have on the Arab and international levels, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: Everybody knows--and this is not the first time I say this--that Syria, particularly Al-Asad's Syria, is responsible for extinguishing the fire in Lebanon and for putting an end to what was happening. I believe that every Lebanese is grateful to Syria for its initiative, which is in the interest of Lebanon, the interest of Syria and the interest of the Arab world. I consider what President al-Asad has done as the greatest service to Lebanon in particular, but also to the Arab world in general because we were heading for catastrophe. He added: In his famous speech, President al-Asad said the partitioning of Lebanon would be a bigger catastrophe than the Palestinian tragedy because those who came to Palestine were foreigners, but in Lebanon the Lebanese are our brothers and we must prevent Lebanon's partitioning.

Former Prime Minister Karami said after the meeting: We discussed the current situation and developments, all of which require attention in order to end the situation that all the people are complaining about.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS ON DETENTE, EVACUEES

NC071405Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said today that it would be preferable at this stage not to enter into the details of detente and not to talk much about it. On the question of evacuees, he said that the return of the evacuees to the areas they had left during the incidents depends upon the return of stability to the homeland. We will leave the details to the prime minister in his replies to the questions on these subjects.

[Begin recording] [Al-Huss] Undoubtedly, everybody feels that the atmosphere is now more opportune than ever to achieve national detente to which all the Lebanese aspire. We have often said that, as a result of the contacts which have been made and continue to be made with the various sides, the government has reached certain firm conclusions and views regarding the formula around which the Lebanese will rally during the implementation of detente. We are waiting for the appropriate moment to present this formula. It is a question of timing. We hope that it will not be too long before we are able to present the formula for national detente. However, it is preferable at this stage not to enter into the details of this subject or talk much about it because the people expect results and not statements.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what about the subject of the evacuees? Will there be a solution to this problem soon?

[Answer] The return of the evacuees to the areas they left during the incidents is bound by the return of stability to the homeland. Stability requires a kind of reassurance which, in our opinion, will not be fully achieved unless national detente is achieved. I hope that with the achievement of detente all the evacuees, without exception, will be able to return to the areas they had left. [end recording]

MAGAZINE MONDAY MORNING SUSPENDED FOR 1 WEEK

JN081106Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0947 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 February--The Lebanese magazine MONDAY MORNING was suspended yesterday for 1 week. A statement issued by the Lebanese Internal Security Forces said the English language magazine was suspended because it did not abide by censorship regulations. The statement did not give any further details.

BRIEFS

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR--The new Venezuelan ambassador to Lebanon, Carlos Andres Peres, presented his credentials to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis today. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC]

NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR--The Lebanese Government today approved the appointment of Alberto Velazco San Jose as the new Cuban ambassador to Lebanon. The new ambassador is expected to arrive in Beirut soon to take office. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC]

ARAB STUDENTS ORGANIZATION DELEGATION--Beirut, 4 February--A delegation of the Arab student organization in North America has visited the nationalist villages in southern Lebanon and met with the nationalist fighters in the frontline positions. The delegation, which is visiting Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese nationalist movement, has had several meetings with the central political council of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance. It also discussed with the student bureau of the Lebanese nationalist movement the means necessary to escalate the activities of the Arab student organizations abroad. The delegation announced that it will organize a week of solidarity with the Lebanese nationalist movement in North America. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN]

KHADDAM INTERVIEWED BY KUWAIT'S AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM

JN080550Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam declared that the Algiers summit conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front achieved great success.

In an interview granted to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published today, Khaddam said the conference achieved several basic things. It perpetuated the front and consequently the political line presented by the front to deal with the current situation, including the defeatist policy of As-Sadat. The front also affirmed Arab keenness on just and durable peace based on withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and safeguarding the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Khaddam further said: The front has succeeded in defining the dimensions and requirements of the conflict with a view to providing some of the required support for the Syrian military front. The Algiers conference affirmed to world public opinion that the president of the Egyptian regime does not have the legal right to speak in the name of the Palestinian issue or the occupied Arab territories. The front also succeeded in taking practical steps to support the Syrian military front. The most important achievement of the front is its thwarting of the conspiracy of despair carried out by the ruler in Egypt under the slogan that the decision of war and peace is in the hand of Egypt's ruler. The front did so by underlining the pan-Arab role of the Arab nation and by calling for the need for a strategic balance between the Syrian front and the Zionist enemy. This was also supported by the front's pan-Arab principles, which kept the door open to the Arab countries which rejected As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem or those who did not support this visit.

Khaddam said that the Algiers conference was a constructive and positive step along the long road the Arabs are following to achieve their pan-Arab aims for comprehensive liberation and the recovery of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights. The Algiers conference adopted a decision keeping the door open to all the Arab countries, including Iraq, to join the front.

On Saudi Arabia's attitude concerning developments in the Middle East situation, Khaddam said: During my visit today to Saudi Arabia I conveyed a message to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. The brother officials in Saudi Arabia have confirmed to me the kingdom's firm stand based on the Arab summit resolutions, especially those of the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences. The officials also confirmed support for the Arab stand aimed at achieving complete withdrawal and the recovery of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Answering a question regarding the possibility of the United States and Israel achieving a separate solution, Khaddam said: It is always our opinion that the means must be in harmony with the end. An honorable end requires an honorable means. The liberation of the land and the recovery of the Palestinian people's rights are noble pan-Arab aims which are not fulfilled by surrender to the enemy and wounding the dignity and pride of the Arab nation. All As-Sadat can do is to continue to stab the Arab nation and its principles and consequently to grant more gains to the Israeli enemy.

Khaddam pointed out that before As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem there was a base of Arab solidarity with Egypt, Syria, and the Palestinian people. There was a means for a political and military confrontation of the enemy. World public opinion was putting great pressure on Israel to make it respond to the requirements of the just peace. Despite all this, the Israelis refused to respond to the minimum Arab rights approved by the United Nations and recognized by world public opinion.

Khaddam further said: After As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem we saw Arab reality developing cracks; consequently, cracks developed in world support for the Arabs. Nay, we saw confidence collapse between Syria and the Egyptian ruler.

Khaddam asked: Why should the Israelis after all this respond to the requirements of just peace?

Khaddam said: It is natural that the Israelis should become more obstinate. The road followed by As-Sadat will definitely lead him to sign the instrument of surrender to the Israeli enemy.

On the recent snag in Egyptian-Israeli contracts through the United States and Begin, Khaddam said: The Egyptian president has placed the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict in second place in relation to his basic concerns. The Palestinian issue is no longer his main preoccupation. Neither is the Sinai issue. He is now preoccupied with how he can turn into a hand serving the interests of the United States and certain other states. This is what he meant in his speech at the Egyptian People's Assembly when he said that the October war is the last war and that he requests America to supply him with arms--not to fight Israel but because he has duties in Africa and the Arab area.

On the latest developments in the situation in Lebanon, Khaddam said: A number of explosions occurred in Lebanon. These incidents are undoubtedly aimed at serving the Egyptian regime and Israel.

Khaddam added: The command of the Arab deterrent forces has taken stringent measures to deal with this situation and to crush any attempt to disturb security.

Khaddam said: President Sarkis has decided to begin the achievement of national detente.

Khaddam expressed the belief that all wish Sarkis success in this national mission.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RETURNS FROM KUWAIT

JN081315Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 8 February--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus from Kuwait at noon today after a visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait where he delivered two messages to His Majesty King Khalid and his highness the amir of Kuwait. The messages deal with the current Arab situation and results of the conference of steadfastness and confrontation held recently in Algiers.

SOURCE DENIES CABINET RESHUFFLE PLANNED

NC051225Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 5 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Damascus, 5 February--An official Syrian source today denied recent reports about the formation of a new Syrian cabinet to succeed the present cabinet headed by Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi. In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Damascus, the source said that the present Syrian cabinet will remain and that a cabinet reshuffle is not contemplated at present.

Major General Khulayfawi formed the present cabinet of 25 ministers in 1976.

There have been reports that a new cabinet would be formed after President Hafiz al-Asad reassumes his constitutional powers on 12 March.

DEFENSE MINISTER ATTACKS AS-SADAT'S SOVIET POLICY

JN062044Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas has attacked President as-Sadat's initiative and the diplomacy he is adopting toward the Soviet Union. In an article published in the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN [date not given], General Talas said that the United States will never bring pressure to bear on Israel to make it withdraw from the Arab land. He added: If the United States had been ready to do so, President as-Sadat's initiative would have been justified.

The Syrian defense minister called for support for Syria and for working anew for the unity of the Arab ranks through the backing of the world forces which support Arab rights.

DEFENSE MINISTER TALAS VISITS ARMY UNIT

JN071930Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, defense minister and deputy commander in chief, accompanied by a number of senior army officers, paid an inspection visit to one of our army formations today. A big rally was held on the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for another term as president. The grounds were decorated with flags and pictures of the president and with placards expressing continued support for President Hafiz al-Asad's march of struggle.

The defense minister gave a speech in which he explained the dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist plot being implemented by the agent As-Sadat regime and how Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is facing the plots of capitulation so as to abort them. He affirmed that revolutionary Syria is determined to continue its socialist and pan-Arab struggle until the aims of our nation regarding unity, freedom and socialism are realized, and until our usurped rights are regained.

General Talas said: The march of peace in Lebanon achieved by President Hafiz al-Asad is continuing and we will not allow anybody to disturb it. He added that in order to be faithful to this great leader we must tell him: Yes! Yes, we will continue supporting you for another 7 years and forever. You are the custodian of trust, the lion of Arabism and the lion of the Arab nation.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, General Talas left the grounds amidst songs and slogans by the soldiers expressing absolute support for President Hafiz al-Asad.

LIBYA

PALESTINIAN LEADERS HABASH, HAWATIMAH VISIT TRIPOLI

LD072158Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine this evening arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Jamahiriya of several days.

AL-QADHDHAFI RETURNS HOME FROM ALGIERS, TUNIS

LD071552Y Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 7, JANA--Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, the leader of the revolution, returned to Tripoli last evening after taking part in the summit of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers and a brief stay in Tunis.

In Algiers Colonel al-Qadhafi was seen off at the Algiers airport by President Houari Boumediene and members of the Revolutionary Council.

In Tunis Colonel al-Qadhafi was received by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira. He could not meet President Bourguiba because of his serious illness.

On arrival in Tunis Colonel al-Qadhafi said his visit was within the framework of consultations and cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He emphasized that the Jamahiriya and Tunisia were one country, one nation and parts of the same body.

AL-QADHDHAFI BLAMES CHAD FOR BREAK IN RELATIONS

LD071434Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Leader of the Great 1 September Revolution Col Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi has sent messages to Gabonese President al-Hajj Omar Bongo, who is OAU chairman, Niger President Seyni Kountche, Togolese President Eyadema, and OAU Secretary General William Eteke. The messages concern the decision of the Chad government to suspend its political relations with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In his messages, the brother colonel explains that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya welcomes any effort to normalize its relations with Chad, and that on the basis of mediation by President Kountche and President Eyadema and William Eteke, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had agreed to attend a meeting to be held between the Jamahiriya foreign secretary and the Chad foreign minister in the presence of the Niger foreign minister in Niamey on 7 February.

The Libyan Arab foreign secretary in fact arrived in Niamey on 6 February, but the Malloum government on the same day unexpectedly issued a decision announcing the suspension of its relations with the Jamahiriya and it refused to attend the scheduled foreign ministers meeting. It asked the Jamahiriya ambassador and members of the embassy to leave Chad as soon as possible.

The brother colonel noted in his message that this strange behavior by the Chad Government shows its lack of respect of international law. It also proves its unworthiness as a responsible government and this action on its part is a personal insult to the African presidents who tried to mediate in restoring normal relations between the two countries.

SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT IBRAHIM CONTINUES VISIT

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD080000Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi this evening received at his office Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the Republic of Sudan and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union. The meeting was attended by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and the liaison secretary.

Meeting With Jallud

LD072102Y Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 7, JANA--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud received here this morning the visiting Sudanese first deputy president, 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim.

The meeting held at the People's Palace was also attended by Muhammad Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy, the secretary of information and culture. Staff Major Jallud also received the French ambassador the Jamahiriyyah.

MOROCCO

HASSAN REFERS ALGERIAN ATTACKS TO WALDHEIM

LD021417Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 26 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[MAP report]

[Text] Washington, 25 January--On Tuesday Moroccan Ambassador to Washington Ali Benjelloun handed UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim a message from His Majesty King Hassan II concerning recent attacks on Moroccan civilians in Tan-Tan Province by mercenaries in the pay of Algiers.

After his interview with Mr Waldheim the Moroccan diplomat stated that it was now up to "the United Nations, and especially the secretary general, to draw the appropriate conclusions and take all useful steps to insure that the Algerian Government abides by international law and desists from all action likely to threaten the peace and security of the region."

Mr Benjelloun pointed out that three Moroccan citizens had been killed in this attack and seven other had been taken hostage and he added that "his majesty's aim in referring the matter to Mr Waldheim was to inform the entire international community of the criminal acts perpetrated by the Algerian Government which flouts the principles of the UN Charter and has no hesitation in resorting to methods which are reminiscent of the acts of piracy performed in the Mediterranean basin two centuries ago.

"The fact that the operation in south Morocco was carried out at the very time when the current Chairman of the OAU is doing all he can to convene an extraordinary summit makes us skeptical about the Algerian Government's real intentions and casts doubt on the sincerity of its desire for this summit to take place.

The Moroccan ambassador to Washington ended by pointing out that "his majesty the king has already expressed his willingness to take part in the Libreville summit."

DEPUTIES APPEAL TO GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

LD061805Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The representatives of the three Saharan regions in the House of Deputies have sent a note to the International Commission on Human Rights in Geneva concerning the Moroccans detained in Algeria. The text of the note follows:

We, the undersigned--representatives of the three Moroccan Saharan regions in the House of Deputies--have the honor to bring to your notice on the occasion of the opening of the session of the International Commission on Human Rights, the deep concern we feel concerning the fate of the Moroccan citizens detained by the Algerian authorities in the Inddoug area. What causes us greater concern is the fact that among these detainees there are women and children and old people who have been taken away from their families by wholesale military kidnaping organized by the Algerian army in the recovered Moroccan regions at the time of concluding the Madrid agreement on 14 December 1975.

Throughout the past 2 years, we have tried to obtain information through several international humanitarian organizations about the fate of our citizens detained at detention centers in the Tindoug area, totally isolated from the outside world. These attempts were sadly in vain but the evidence of persons who in the past few months managed to escape from these centers risking their lives, have unmasked the harsh and deteriorating conditions in which these detained Moroccan citizens have been living--conditions dominated by deprivation, fear, illness and starvation.

Mr Chairman, there is no use in reminding you here of the conditions in which the detainees are living and which are considered a flagrant defiance and violation of the simplest principles of human rights. Accordingly, we beg you to investigate, as quickly as possible, this tragedy and evaluate its seriousness. In the name of the inhabitants we represent in the House of Deputies and in the name of hundreds of divided families, we request you pay attention to this serious human problem which is being exploited by the Algerian rulers in a mean fashion in the political field to justify the constant attacks they are making against the two neighboring states--the Moroccan Kingdom and the Mauritanian Islamic Republic.

We direct our appeal to the conscience of the honorable members of the International Commission on Human Rights and through them to world conscience to pay attention to this tragedy and firmly to intervene with the Algerian authorities who are solely responsible for this human tragedy, so that the detainees may be allowed to return to their homeland--Morocco--and rejoin their families and exercise their freedom and dignity and enjoy life among their families, a principle for which the human rights commission works energetically.

The deputies concluded their note to the human rights commission saying: We are certain that your committee will not stand with arms folded, oblivious to the agonies in which our compatriots are living. Through the means at its disposal, it knows how to impose respect for the usurped right and justice by the Algerian rulers who are not ashamed to continue the operations of kidnaping innocent people to make them a medium for their false propaganda before international organizations.

[Signed] Al-Hajj Khatri Ould Sa'id al-Jummani, Ma' al-'Aynayn Muhammad Taqiyyallah, Rashid (ad-Duwayli), Dr Baydallah Muhammad ash-Shaykh, Khalli Hanna Ould ar-Rashid, Ahmad Ould al-Bashir, 'Abd ar-Rahman (al-Laybak) Muhammad Ould Sidi al-Bashir.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI TO VISIT EUROPEAN, ARAB COUNTRIES

NC081049Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 8 February--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has stated that before next May he will pay official visits to several European states and unofficial visits to some Arab countries. This was contained in a statement by President Numayri published in the Sudanese newspaper AS-SAHAFAH today.

Numayri said that in relation to Sudan's stand regarding the existing conflicts in Africa, such as that between Somalia and Ethiopia on one side and Eritrea and Ethiopia on the other, Sudan will begin holding consultations with some states to help solve African problems.

Numayri added that a Sudanese delegation will likely go to Somalia and some other African states which have influence in the continent since there is a need for consultations in order to reach solutions to these conflicts.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES LETTER FROM PDRY LEADER

JN071655Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 7 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 7 February--Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir today received a letter from PDRY Presidential Council Chairman Salim Rubayyi' Ali to be handed over to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The letter was delivered by Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, PDRY agriculture and agrarian reform minister, who arrived in Khartoum earlier today.

IBRAHIM URGES DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

LD072008Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY reports from Tripoli that 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the republic, secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union, and leader of the Sudanese delegation, stated on arrival at the airport of the Libyan capital at noon yesterday that peace between the (?leaders) of the two countries, who are linked by eternal and (?militant) relations, is a matter of course. He explained that his visit is a part of constant meetings between the May and September revolutions. His excellency declared that the visit serves to link an interrupted dialog toward restoring normal bilateral relations. The visit is a step forward on the road of the Arab struggle and a reinforcement of the cause of Arab solidarity, which the May revolution has been preaching and advocating. His excellency added that he is confident that this visit will be (?all) to the good of the two countries and revolutions and the Arab nation and that it will produce a new and vital impetus toward mobilizing and exploiting the potentials of the Arab nation and fulfilling its desire that the two countries develop their bilateral relations in accordance with the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

SUNA adds that official talks between the two sides will begin today.

TUNISIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY LIBYAN LEADER AL-QADHDHAFI

LD061600Y Tunis TAP in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, 6 February--Col Mu'ammam al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, arrived at Tunis Carthage International Airport at 1320 today. He was accompanied by Taha ash-Sharif ibn Abu 'Amir, liaison secretary.

Al-Qadhdhafi, who was coming from Algiers, was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira; Mohamed Fitouri, secretary of state for foreign affairs; Ibrahim Turki, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abd al-Hamid az-Zintani, Jamahiriya general representative.

In the VIP lounge Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made the following statement to the press:

It is not strange for me to visit Tunisia. It would be strange not to exchange visits. Tunisia and Jamahiriya are one country. They are like one body; if one part feels pain the rest of the body suffers too. I have seized the opportunity of my presence in Algeria for the steadfastness conference to visit Tunisia and get in touch with the brother officials of this fraternal country and to acquaint myself with the conditions in Tunisia and about the condition of President Habib Bourguiba.

Col Mu'ammam al-Qadhdhafi and Prime Minister Hedi Nouira then proceeded to the Hilton Hotel, where they will be having talks.

'Emergency Landing' Reported

JN061924Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Tunis, 6 February--Col Mu'ammam al-Qadhdhafi spent 3 hours in Tunis following an emergency landing by his plane which was en route from Algiers to Tripoli. During this time Al-Qadhdhafi met with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira and Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Fitouri. He then continued his trip.

Talks Described as Cordial

LD072220Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] It has been learned that yesterday's talks which lasted over 2 hours between Prime Minister Hedi Nouira and the Arab Libyan Jamahiriya leader Col Mu'ammam al-Qadhdhafi were as characteristically cordial as the relations of friendship, cooperation and mutual respect between the two countries. During these talks the Libyan leader affirmed to the prime minister that the Jamahiriya Government's relations with countries are based on governments rather than persons and that the relations between the Jamahiriya and Tunisia have always been based on this. It has also been learned that the talks dealt with the question of the continental shelf and the impending exchange of instruments of ratification of the agreement to refer this question to the international court of justice. Al-Qadhdhafi also expressed his interest in realizing the various agreements concluded between the two countries.

PREMIER NOUIRA SEES UNREST AS SETBACK FOR UGTT

ID061603Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 31 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[Apparent text of interview granted by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to French television--date and place not specified]

[Text] We publish here under the text of an interview granted by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to French television Channel II:

A journalist: Prime Minister, a few weeks ago you told us that tensions had subsided but it has now been realized that another outbreak of violence has occurred. How would you describe it, whom do you blame for it and why has it occurred?

The prime minister: It was a sudden outbreak of violence and it surprised us. However, if you look back at the events which took place in the past 4-5 months, you could find the clue to the mystery. In my view, it was an error of judgment on the part of certain Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] leaders as to the possibility of imposing their will.

A journalist: I understand that the UGTT is a general popular movement?

The prime minister: It is a popular movement but the question is whether it is a political or a socioeconomic movement. I believe that hitherto the UGTT has denied that it is a political spokesman and this is why we have agreed with it on a contractual policy and prepared an agreement following a rather considerable wage increase last January.

A journalist: So you were surprised?

The prime minister: We were surprised that such a sudden change took place despite the fact that the government proved quite generous. We had agreed to meet annually to reconsider wage problems taking into account any change in prices, production and productivity. Meanwhile, social peace was to be preserved. However, the state granted some advantages in certain sectors which were believed to be reasonable. We agreed to grant them even though this almost amounted to a breach of our agreements.

A journalist: Do you judge these events to be a failure of your policy?

The prime minister: These events are regrettable for several reasons. I see them as a result of an error by the UGTT, as a setback for it.

A journalist: Could it be said that the country has been divided with your supporters on one side and those of the UGTT on the other?

The prime minister: It is a question of how many supporters the UGTT or rather a certain policy has. The stronger a trade union organization is, the more valid an interlocutor it is. However, if it is not a valid interlocutor it cannot aspire to represent any socioprofessional category with which it has no ties.

A journalist: Prime Minister, troops are in the streets. What will happen?

The prime minister: Nothing will happen. Troops are in the streets to maintain order for a certain period of time. Eventually, they will go back to their barracks. The army intervened only on Thursday at 1400, that is, after all possible clashes had taken place.

A journalist: Tunisia is now asking itself a number of questions on its future. How do you envisage them and how do you envisage post-Bourguibism?

The prime minister: I believe that I have already explained my views on the subject. There will be no post-Bourguibism. There will be Bourguibism which will continue with its tolerance, its broad outlook on the future and its economic, social and political reforms. All this constitutes the ethics of Bourguibism which all Tunisians certainly value.

A journalist: Despite these events, will your policy change, your social and economic policy and your press policy, for instance?

The prime minister: Our policy will change neither with respect to the press nor with respect to dialog with all those who want dialog, obviously in accordance with the rules and ethics governing any dialog. Therefore, we will keep the door open and, in fact, now is the time to emphasize that we will keep it open because we want and desire this.

A journalist: With reference to your relations with your close neighbors, do you accuse certain foreign countries of having more or less fostered these events?

The prime minister: I believe that since I hold a position of such responsibility I have no right to talk inconsiderately.

A journalist: An alien hand has been mentioned and it has been rumored that these events did not necessarily originate in the country itself.

The prime minister: A judicial inquiry is now taking place and the law courts will give their verdict.

WESTERN SAHARA

MINISTRY REPORTS VICTORY OVER MAURITANIAN FORCES

LD051324Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Yesterday the Saharan Defense Ministry issued a statement saying that a Saharan Popular Liberation Army unit launched an attack against an invasion force garrison at (?Chatla). The Saharan forces destroyed several positions of the aggressor forces of the Mauritanian expansionist regime. Their heavy artillery shelled the military installations in the town, setting fuel and ammunition depots on fire. Forty-five soldiers were killed, including several officers and noncommissioned officers of the occupation forces. A number of soldiers were also taken prisoner.

The Saharan statement added that, just as in the case of past operations, on the following day, the occupation forces launched a joint air operation against the unit of the Saharan Popular Liberation Army. A French-Moroccan air formation consisting of four Jaguar and three F-5 aircraft supported by Atlantic planes attempted to pinpoint the position of the Saharan unit that launched the offensive.

The statement added that this joint air operation with French aircraft took place inside Saharan territory, just as the operation of 27 January when military aircraft attacked a convoy of our compatriots who were fleeing from the occupied territories, killing 25 women and children with phosphorus bombs dropped by Jaguar and F-5 planes.

BEGIN MEETS NEWSMEN BEFORE LEAVING FOR EUROPE

TA080618Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin is leaving for Geneva this morning for a meeting with the heads of the Jewish communities in Western Europe. The objective of the prime minister's trip is to raise funds for the solution of the problem of families living in distressing conditions.

Prior to his departure, Begin said, in answer to questions by correspondents, that there is a basis for hoping that the deliberations of the Political Committee will be resumed. It should be clear, however, that the place for convening the Political Committee is Jerusalem. The prime minister also said that the contacts in the Military Committee will continue.

Asked whether the Aswan formula on the Palestinian issue was acceptable to him, the prime minister said: We have a formula of our own.

The prime minister refused to discuss the results of As-Sadat's visit [to the United States] before a concluding statement on the visit is issued. The prime minister also avoided adding details to Foreign Minister Dayan's remarks on aid to Ethiopia. He said: I can only confirm the remarks of the foreign minister.

Begin also said he would not offer Nissim Ga'on the post of the president, noting that the president must be an Israeli citizen.

In reaction to the congressional committee report on Israel's military power, he said that we should be happy that we are strong.

HA'AREZ GIVES FURTHER DETAILS ON ARMS DEAL WITH ETHIOPIA

TA071115Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The arms deal between Israel and Ethiopia, whose existence was revealed by Foreign Minister Dayan in Switzerland yesterday, does not include heavy arms and is mainly limited to ammunition and noncombat military equipment such as ammunition belts, sleeping bags and the like.

It should be noted that most of these deals were signed a long time ago and information regarding all of them was transmitted to the Americans.

Foreign Minister Dayan's announcement that Israel was supplying arms to Ethiopia surprised defense elements here. The matter had been kept secret at Ethiopia's insistence. Nobody was ready yesterday to confirm whether Ethiopia had agreed to the lifting of this limitation and whether Dayan's declaration was made with the knowledge and approval of the prime minister.

Publicity about the military ties between Israel and Ethiopia since the outbreak of war between Ethiopia and Somalia had come only from the foreign press. In Israel foreign items were copied exactly the way they appeared. Among other items, it was reported that the IDF trained Ethiopian teams in Israel by using captured Soviet tanks of the type that Ethiopia was going to receive from the Soviet Union. It was also reported that we supplied Ethiopia with maintenance services for their F-5 planes. No Israeli denial of these reports was published. In contrast the report that Israeli soldiers were taking part in the battles with Somalia was informally denied.

It has been reported that details of the arms deals referred to by Dayan were transmitted to the Americans after the Soviet Union became the major supplier of aid for Ethiopia in its war with Somalia. It is not to be assumed that Israel would have continued these deals had Washington firmly opposed this.

Authoritative sources say that the deals in question are small arms deals involving quite small sums, most of which were signed and concluded a long time ago. Since the war [between Ethiopia and Somalia] began, the deals have included other, noncombat military equipment. This supply of noncombat equipment has continued.

As is well known, Ethiopia does not maintain diplomatic ties with Israel. In the 1960's and until the severance of relations, Israel maintained a large military delegation in Ethiopia.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT Report

TA071116Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Eytan Haber]

[Text] The military aid Israel has extended to Ethiopia, which Foreign Minister Dayan revealed yesterday, includes, among other things, ammunition, ammunition belts, first-aid equipment, tents and clothes. The supply of this equipment began over a year ago following an appeal by the Ethiopia Government.

Foreign sources report that Israel is also selling antitank and antiaircraft missiles, parts and communications equipment to Ethiopia.

Erol Guiney, our political commentator adds: Permanent interests are more important than ideological differences of opinion. This explains why Israel agreed to extend a certain military aid to the regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam in Addis Ababa. And indeed, it is a constant Israeli interest in the shores on both sides of the Red Sea not to be entirely in Arab hands. This could happen if the rebels of Somalia and Eritrea succeeded in their struggle against Ethiopia.

Both Israel and Ethiopia do not want the Red Sea to turn into an Arab lake. This is the best explanation for the cooperation between them.

One of the reasons that apparently moved Ethiopia to accept Israeli aid is the fact that the Ethiopians still have a large amount of U.S. arms. They have to operate and maintain the arms, and it is clear that Israel can help them in this better than the Soviets or the Cubans. It should be remembered that the people who hold the reins of control in Addis Ababa are military people; they have considerable experience in cooperating with Israel, dating back to the time of Emperor Haile Selassie. They are therefore ready to continue this cooperation, whatever the ideology.

Therefore, what came as a surprise is not so much the fact that Israel is extending aid to Ethiopia but the fact that Dayan revealed this. It seems that he did so because it was the only way to put an end to the numerous rumors on the matter and to restrict the issue to the right proportions. The aid is indeed rather limited and includes only technological know-how and certain equipment.

The two questions still remaining are:

A. What is the reaction of the Soviets? It is clear that they do not want cooperation with Israel, and they are doing their best to limit the Israeli presence in Ethiopia.

B. What is the reaction of the Americans? It is possible that they are not treating the affair with too much dissatisfaction since they may benefit in the future from the fact that Addis Ababa continues to maintain some sort of ties with a Western country.

PRESS DISCUSSES DAYAN'S REMARKS; U.S. ARMS TO EGYPT

TA080750Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Feb 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] Today's papers discuss Foreign Minister Dayan's announcement about the arms supply to Ethiopia, the affair of the Hirbat Hiz'a movie and reports about Carter's decision to supply arms to Egypt.

The Jerusalem POST says that Ethiopia and Israel have a vital interest in preventing the Red Sea from falling under total Arab control, a thing that may happen if the Eritrean rebels win in their war against the central government. It is doubtful that Dayan's intention to publicize this had been reported to the prime minister in advance. It came as a surprise to his assistants. In addition, the disclosure was not accompanied by a proper explanation. It is possible, now that Dayan has arrived in the United States, that he will account for this. If there is anything in the report that Israel's action in Ethiopia was with the tacit consent of the United States, this should perhaps also be confirmed.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that Ethiopia is rapidly turning into a Soviet satellite and does not enjoy the support of the West as it has in the past. The question is what is the use of extending military aid to Ethiopia exactly now, or, if aid has been extended in the past, what is the point of giving this wide publicity? In other words, what political benefit, if a benefit indeed exists, can Israel draw from this fact, and what was the reason for publicizing this? These are questions to which Israel's citizens deserve an answer since it is the Israeli foreign minister who should clarify the policy of his government first to the citizens of his country.

VIATA NOASTRA believes that an Israeli acknowledgment that we are sending arms to Ethiopia gives rise to negative repercussions in the United States.

UJ KELET is of the opinion that the report about Israeli arms supply to Ethiopia demonstrates to our people and the world that Israel has an independent policy based on geostrategic considerations of its own. These considerations are decisive in certain cases, even if this is objected to by this or that friendly country.

NOWINY KURIER says that it is reasonable to assume that Dayan's announcement was not a slip of the tongue, nor was it accidental.

HAZOFE calls on the government to start a comprehensive information campaign making use of the Jewish lobby and the large Jewish organizations in the United States so that Congress will foil President Carter's proposal to sell arms to Egypt.

HAMODI'A thinks that it is to be feared, judging by the initial reactions to President Carter's decision to sell 50 F-5 planes to Egypt, that Carter will indeed receive the required approval of Congress. To judge by the degree of popularity gained by President as-Sadat in the United States in the wake of his peace initiative and his visit to Jerusalem, it is to be assumed that this time Israel will not be able to delay the execution of the decision.

BEGIN ON MINISTER'S DECISION TO POSTPONE TV PLAY

TA081100Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Gid'on Allon]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday expressed surprise at the decision by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (who oversees the operation of the broadcasting authorities law) to postpone the screening of the play "Hirbet Hiz'a" over the television.

It was learned from people close to the prime minister that Begin thinks the play should have been shown and there was no reason not to show the film based on the story by S. Yizhar, which was written 30 years ago.

Hammer Acted Within Authority

TA081101Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Kahana]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin reacted this morning to the position taken by Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer. Begin said that Hammer had acted on this matter in accordance with his authority as the person appointed over the broadcasting authority. The prime minister said, in reply to a question by the MA'ARIV correspondent, that there was no foundation for the report that he did not justify or support the decision by Minister Hammer to hold up the screening of the film "Hirbet Hiz'a" on television.

WEIZMAN: EGYPT MAY COMPROMISE ON SINAI SETTLEMENTS

TA071306Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 4 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizur]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, at the meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday, expressed his opinion that Egyptian War Minister General al-Jamasi wants to make every possible effort in order to reach a political settlement.

Minister Weizman emphasized that Al-Jamasi has much influence in the leadership of the Egyptian Government and that he is conducting the negotiations in a manner of compromise in order to reach peace with Israel. The defense minister believes that the Egyptians will agree to "a solution of time" but not to a solution of territorial compromise. In other words, they will agree that the settlements continue to exist for a certain transitional period but insist that ultimately they be liquidated.

Concerning this issue, 'Ezer Weizman yesterday said that he personally is prepared to undertake that in the year 2000 there will be a revision and renewed decisions regarding the continued existence of the settlements and the airfields in the Rafah approaches and the Elat region. Mr Weizman believes that the Egyptians' aspiration for peace has not diminished as a result of the complications in the negotiations. In his opinion everything now depends on whether the Political Committee talks are resumed. Therefore, it was concluded in the talks in Cairo last week that everything remains open; no conclusion was reached on any point. All are now waiting for As-Sadat's return from his present trip.

MA'ARIV Sees Compromise

TA071238Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] In recent contacts with Egypt it has become clear that the question of the continued presence of the Israeli settlements in Sinai--settlements that are presently viewed as the major obstacle on the way to achieving an agreement with Egypt--is soluble in a manner satisfactory to both parties.

It now depends on whether Israel will in principle be ready to give a statement that one day, not necessarily within a few years, it will agree to give up these settlements. In such a case, Egypt will agree to have them remain there for a long while.

U.S. elements following the negotiations believe that Egypt does not intend to foil the peace negotiations with Israel but that it cannot, from its point of view, give up its sovereignty over the Sinai approaches and the other places in which Israeli settlements are located. On the other hand, it is clear to it that Israel will not be ready to give up the settlements. Therefore, they have recently raised the idea that was passed on to Israel a few days ago.

The elements that passed on this idea to Israel note that on one point the Egyptians will be ready to show flexibility--Israel will not have to make the declaration of intent about the future of the Rafah approaches part of the peace treaty but perhaps part of a tripartite conclusion or agreement among Egypt, Israel and the United States.

Government circles who were asked whether such a proposal had reached Israel answered in the affirmative but avoided going into detail. It was hinted that this idea will be examined in greater detail when the talks between Israel and Egypt resume, either in the Military or the Political Committees, after As-Sadat returns from his visit to the United States.

This arrangement proposed by the Egyptians may also refer to the airfields in various places in Sinai which Israel wants to hold.

This Egyptian tendency is something of a concession to Israel, and it appears that when it was reported by authoritative sources yesterday, after the cabinet session, that in the defense minister's talk in Egypt last week "progress" had been made, the reference may be that Egypt no longer ignores the fact that if it demands the uprooting of the settlements, peace will recede.

As opposed to previous assessments made by Foreign Minister Dayan about recent developments, developments that are negative in his opinion, Defense Minister Weizman sounded more optimistic yesterday.

HA'AREZ Cites Proposals

TA080919Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By HA'AREZ political correspondent]

[Text] One of the recently examined proposals for a solution to the problem of the Sinai settlements is to define the Rafah salient as part of the Gaza Strip. This proposal, which has been put forward in the past, was reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee as a possibility discussed by 'Ezer Weizman in his Cairo talks. The main point of the proposal is to make applicable to the Rafah salient the arrangements proposed in the peace program for Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip and which are included in the autonomous entity proposal.

Another proposal recently discussed is not setting a definite time limit on Israeli presence in the Rafah salient, but to express agreement in principle evacuating these settlements in the future.

These proposals have not crystallized and were discussed in the framework of Israeli-Egyptian exchanges of ideas in an attempt to find a compromise on the question of the future of the settlements.

8 Feb DAVAR Report

TA080918Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By DAVAR Jerusalem correspondent]

[Text] According to senior government sources in Jerusalem, reports that a form of text has emerged from the latest talks in Cairo, likely to serve as a basis for discussion between Israel and Egypt on the issue of the Rafah salient, are not precise.

As-Sadat has several times defined the matter of the settlements as the "main obstacle in achieving an agreement" while at the same time claiming that the Palestinian problem was the "heart of the dispute."

At any rate, the problem of the settlements in the Rafah salient was dealt with in informal talks in Cairo between senior personalities from both delegations, but there are two versions of the significance of the discussions. The essence of the proposal is that Egypt will agree to leave the salient settlements for a long period of time if Israel announced that "the day will come when it will concede them."

According to reports from the Israeli side, a senior military source claimed that if the matter of the settlements is only one of time and Israel will be in principle prepared to remove them one day, Egypt will not put pressure and will be prepared for an Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. tripartite agreement which would be included in a separate paper, without being part of the peace treaty. According to that version, the settlements would be able to exist for many years if Israel agrees to the principle.

Jerusalem is looking into the source of this proposal. According to one interpretation, the senior Egyptian source told the Israeli side: If this is only a question of time and not of principle, then say so; and he detailed his proposal as though in this way he was inviting an Israeli proposal in principle. Cabinet circles in Israel do not believe that there is anything new in this approach, even if the proposal did come from a senior Egyptian source. The Israeli cabinet intends to fight to the end to keep the settlements, not as a principle, but for coming generations, and so, even if the proposal comes from Egypt, it is not acceptable to Jerusalem.

AL-ANBA EDITOR CHARGES INTERFERENCE, RESIGNS

TA080612Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The editor of the government-owned Arabic daily "AL-ANBA," Ya'acov Khazma, has resigned in protest against what he termed intolerable interference by the premier's adviser on Arab affairs, Dr Moshe Sharon, in the production of the paper. Khazma's resignation takes effect April 1.

Khazma told the Jerusalem POST last night that Sharon recently has been intervening in the appearance and content of "AL-ANBA" to the extent of suppressing the judgment of its professional staff. He charged that the paper was being turned into a government bulletin and deprived of the forums in which writers could freely express their opinion.

Khazma, a veteran journalist who has held top positions in radio during his 27 years in the local media, was the force behind transforming "AL-ANBA" from a small news sheet into a respected daily.

Sharon himself yesterday expressed wonder at Khazma's resignation, noting that his "interference" never went beyond the form of counsel, which he said he had to provide in his capacity as the representative of the government.

His associates said that Sharon had been chiefly concerned with administrative control as a result of the paper's IL4m. loss last year. Sharon recently ordered extensive cuts which involved firing five subeditors and three management personnel.

BELGIAN MESSAGE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, BORDERS PROTESTED

TA041920Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 4 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry director general, Efra'yim 'Evron, has summoned Belgium's ambassador in Israel and protested to him his government's identification with Arab positions in the midst of the negotiations. This is reported by our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram.

Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet 2 weeks ago sent a written communication to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in which he called on Israel to withdraw to the 1967 lines and to recognize the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. The Foreign Ministry's director general told the ambassador that no government had approached Israel in a similar manner and that the demands in the communication amount to a mortal danger for the State of Israel. This step is likely to encourage Arab extremism and jeopardize the prospects for a settlement, the Foreign Ministry director general said.

DMC CHANGES REPRESENTATION ON KNESSET COMMITTEE

TA061907Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The DMC faction has chosen new members for the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. They are 'Aquiya Nof, Shemu'el Toledano, Amnon Rubinstein and Binyamin Halevi. MK David Golomb received the same number of votes as MK Halevi but conceded in favor of his colleague.

Our correspondent 'Amos Goren reports that a committee is to be established of representatives of all cabinet parties to write the text of a code on how the coalition is to be run after the failures which occurred recently in voting in the assembly.

ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH EEC, FRG, U.S. RATIFIED

TAO61122Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By DAVAR correspondent]

[Text] The government yesterday ratified the financial cooperation protocol between Israel and the European Common Market.

The purpose of the financial protocol is to enable Israel to receive loans from the European Investment Bank totaling about \$35 million to be granted for specific projects in Israel. The interest on the loan will be 9 percent to be devoted to investments that will contribute to the growth of the Israeli gross national product and Israel's industrialization. The government also ratified the complementary protocol that facilitates access to technological information and mutual procurement of patents. A council for high-level cooperation that will also undertake to supervise the agreement of free trade will be set up. Once the council is operational, the mixed committee existing in accordance with the present agreement will be abolished.

The government also approved the agreement between Israel and Germany on the regulation of the international highway transport of merchandise between and through the two countries. The agreement with Germany will be for 3 years and enables Israeli motor vehicles to travel on German territory and vice versa. The two countries also agreed to permit Italian vehicles to carry Israeli goods from Italy to Germany and vice versa--to let German vehicles carry goods from Germany to Italy on the way to Israel.

The agreement to establish the Israeli-U.S. Research and Agricultural Development Fund was ratified by the government yesterday. The objective of the fund is to aid and support agricultural development and research activities, activities beneficial to both countries.

The government yesterday decided to cancel the interministerial committee for international congresses and conventions established in 1965 with the purpose of aiding the organizers of congresses in Israel.

ARENS, NISSIM ELECTED LIKUD EXECUTIVE CHAIRMEN

TAO70840Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By DAVAR Knesset correspondent]

[Text] Yesterday the Likud executive elected two new chairmen. MK Arens (Herut) will replace Menahem Begin and Minister Moshe Nissim will replace Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich.

The Likud executive rejected a proposal from the La'am faction in the Likud to appoint a third chairman. In reaction to this proposal, Prime Minister Menahem Begin made it clear that the institution of the chairmen was based on an agreement reached in Gahal in the past and there was no room for a third chairman.

The Likud executive will meet every 2 weeks after an extended period of inaction. The first issue to be discussed in the executive will be the municipal elections. A demand was also heard to renew the activities of the Likud council.

OFFICIALS MEET JUDAEA, SAMARIA REPRESENTATIVES

TA061903Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has been informed that Israeli officials have been in contact with people from Judaea and Samaria who support the idea of establishing an independent administration for the inhabitants of the territories. In documents they submitted to the military government even before the As-Sadat initiative, they detailed various plans for an independent administration. They have not received a reply. The military government is following a policy of business as usual in order not to arouse hopes for change among the inhabitants.

Our correspondent reports that the latest contacts with supporters of this idea were outside the framework of the military government and had the character of purely trial balloons.

TERRORIST GROUPS UNCOVERED IN NABULUS, WEST BANK

TA051701Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Security forces have apprehended a group of terrorists operating out of Nabulus and dealing in the smuggling of Sabotage material through the port of Haifa. ITIM correspondent Me'ir Shoshani reports that on 25 January two Arabs from Nabulus came to Haifa harbor to receive two crates of personally imported goods. The shipment arrived 10 days earlier in a container from Cyprus. The crates were closely examined and suspicious material was found inside. A police sapper identified it as plastic explosive weighting 40 kg. The two persons who came to receive the goods were arrested.

No details of the investigation were released, but this was a third shipment of sabotage material. Two earlier shipments had come to Israel in a similar way without having been discovered.

The ITIM correspondent has learned that in this way a considerable amount of explosives, fuses and other sabotage materiel were imported. In the wake of these disclosures, a group of terrorists based in Nabulus was apprehended. The investigation continues.

45 Arrests Reported

TA071835Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Security forces recently uncovered seven terrorist squads in Judaea and Samaria. To date, 45 members of Fatah, the Democratic Popular Front and As-Sa'iqah organizations have been arrested. Four squads were uncovered in Nabulus. The members of one of them are attributed with placing the explosive charge in Kfar Sava about a month ago and with distributing leaflets. A squad consisting of four terrorists from the area of the village of (Izriyya) and Ma'ale Ha'edumim, east of Jerusalem, is attributed with placing an explosive charge at a bus stop in the Ramot neighborhood in Jerusalem on 30 August 1977.

Two other squads, consisting of seven terrorists, were uncovered in the Ramallah area. The terrorists were in possession of weapons, explosive materials of various kinds, a duplicating machine and leaflets. Some of them had received military training with the aim of dealing blows at Israel.

The security forces' investigation is continuing.

GROUND PREPARED IN HARES; SHILO SETTLERS DENY REMOVAL

TA080654Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Another nucleus of settlers is now preparing the ground for a new settlement in the territories. The nucleus in question is the Hares nucleus in the Salfit district in Samaria. A military foothold was set up at the site recently in accordance with a government decision.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the nucleus members brought six trailers to the site. They have been working at this military foothold for 2 weeks and are preparing the ground to erect additional structures.

At Shilo the settlers are busy moving the fences in accordance with Defense Ministry instructions. The Shilo settlers deny reports that they had been evacuated from the area in which they were staying. According to them, the exact location of their settlement had not been defined. A headquarters officer from the Ramallah district asked them at the end of last week to move the fence from areas belonging to an adjacent Arab village.

ZIPPORI: SHILO TO BE RESTRICTED TO ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGS

TA081131Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 78 p 6 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizer]

[Excerpt] "The people now in Shilo will remain there and concern themselves with archeological diggings. We will not restrict the number of people who can move to the spot, but we will restrict the territory at their disposal," Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said to the MA'ARIV correspondent last night in the Knesset.

The deputy defense minister stressed that there was no intention of removing the people from Shilo. However, they had deviated from the territory allocated them and this would be corrected.

GUSH EMUNIM FORMS COUNCIL TO PROMOTE SETTLEMENTS

TA071635Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Gush Emunim settlements formed a council this afternoon which will constitute a basis for the settlement movement of the Gush. This body, according to its founding resolutions, will represent the settlements to every outside element, will act for the advancement and development of the settlements, and will contribute toward the establishment of additional settlements.

The head of the Gush Emunim settlement division, Hannan Porat, told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that he would present to the new council a prototype plan for rural settlement throughout Eretz Yisra'el. According to this plan, a million Jews will be residing in Judaea and Samaria in 25 years.

Hannan Porat stressed that the settlement has to be made openly and not in the guise of IDF camps or archeological missions.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS IN JANUARY--Israel's exports last month reached a record \$300 million, 36 percent more than in January last year. Agricultural exports were \$63 million, two-thirds of which was citrus. Industrial exports accounted for \$245 million and metal and electronic exports were up by 50 percent. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 78 TA]

BANGLADESH

NEW POLITICAL PARTY SEEKS GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

BK071624Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0830 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The proposed Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Dal [Nationalist Democratic Party] has applied for the government's permission to function as a political party. BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA [BSS] said that Abdul Hasnat, chairman of the Dacca Municipal Council, submitted the application this morning on behalf of the party.

The law secretary told the BSS that the application will undergo the normal scrutiny. He further said that a decision on the application will be made within 3 weeks, as stipulated in the regulation on political parties.

PAKISTAN

VAJPAYEE SPEECH AT 6 FEBRUARY BANQUET

BK071210Y Delhi ISI in English 0835 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Following is text of [Indian External Affairs Minister] Vajpayee's speech at Islamabad on February 6 at a banquet hosted by Agha Shahi, foreign affairs advisor to the chief marshal law administrator:

Excellency and friends:

I am indeed happy to be in Pakistan today. I am grateful to Your Excellency and the Government of Pakistan for having invited me to visit your country and for making it possible for me and my delegation to be here. May I also thank Your Excellency for the warmth of the hospitality that you and your colleagues have extended to us. This elegant capital of yours is not only blessed by the beauties of nature but is also a symbol of your culture and your new aspirations.

Excellency, I am deeply conscious of the significance of this visit of mine to your capital. Exactly a year ago, my colleagues and I had just been released after 19 months of incarceration. Truthfully, I never thought that after 20 years on opposition benches, the people of India would place the burdens of responsibility upon my shoulders. I little imagined that I would be coming to Pakistan on an official mission. I think I would not be wrong if I say that you probably expected even less that I would be placed in this role.

I will not disown the anguish which I have felt at the history of Indo-Pakistani relations. But that was in the past. Today, I come representing a new party and a new government, and what is more, I come with a new perspective and a new vision for the future of relations between India and Pakistan. As I told your foreign secretary when he came as a special envoy to New Delhi, after 30 years of independent existence our two countries have reached a stage where we must put old suspicions behind us. For my part, I am truly convinced that neither India nor Pakistan can realise its full potential for progress unless both countries, with full respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, march side by side and seek ways and means to forge meaningful and mutually beneficial cooperation as becomes two neighbours.

The first priority of our governments has to be to build a self-reliant economy to lift our people from the morass of want and lack of gainful fulfillment. Both of us have inherited a tradition of pluralism and toleration. We are amongst the largest developing countries in the world. Our respective peoples have shown the ability and diligence to modernise and adapt to our circumstances the benefits of scientific and industrial technology. In suspicion of each other we have been vulnerable to the play of international divisive politics. But in cooperation and harmony we can offer fellow developing countries the somewhat unique assets of our own experience and talents.

Excellency, it was not a casual decision for me to visit Pakistan as an emissary of goodwill. I am not unaware that for about 12 years none of my distinguished predecessors at cabinet level have visited Pakistan. I have come to Pakistan in the hope--I am tempted to say expectation--of being the harbinger of a new era of understanding and friendship between our countries. I would like to assure you, on behalf of our government and people, that India would rejoice in the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

Nearly two years ago when India and Pakistan restored the severed links and reestablished diplomatic relations with each other, the world welcomed the decision. We can also derive satisfaction from the fact that the climate of goodwill generated by this normalisation was not allowed to suffer a setback during the past year, which witnessed unprecedented and far-reaching internal changes in both our countries. This reflected the wisdom of statesmanship and the sobriety of our peoples. It showed, too, in both our countries that it was sterile to rejoice in each other's difficulties or be tempted to interfere in each other's internal affairs. Statesmanship demands from us that we set before ourselves a more positive purpose, a nobler vision of slowly and patiently striving to build bridges of neighbourly cooperation which may enable us to concentrate on the massive agenda of development and welfare of our peoples which we have before us.

The Janata government has, through a deliberate decision, given highest priority to the task of strengthening our relations with our neighbours. In this pursuit, I have visited Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma and Nepal and came away heartened by the warmth of response from every one of them. In the same spirit and through patient negotiations, we have concluded an agreement with Bangladesh on the Ganges waters issue which had bedevilled us for a quarter of a century. For the first time, our subcontinent is not one of the troubled areas of the world. Would not the nations of our subcontinent become an important factor in the ushering in of a new international economic order if, as independent nations, they decide to cooperate with each other on a basis of equality and mutual benefit and thus realise the full constructive potential of the talents of their peoples and the resources of their fertile and rich lands?

Excellency, I have come to Pakistan inspired by this vision. But I am fully aware that it will require understanding to build the edifice of our friendship. I recognize too that its foundations can only be laid in goodwill, realism, sensitivity and mutual respect for our sovereign national personalities. We can move forward only if we move in step. What we must not do is to step backwards and jeopardise the advances which we have made. I for one am hopeful and convinced that the people of our two countries--the peasants in the fields and the workers in the factories and all those millions who have neither fields to till nor work for gainful earning--want to see peaceful and good neighbourly relations between us.

Our people have brought home to me and others in public life in India that they do not accept as inevitable the grim alternative of confrontation and conflict. This was vividly demonstrated to us when I recently saw the enthusiastic welcome accorded to your artists and scholars who, after a gap of so many years, visited us. It came plain when our people from all walks of life joined to commemorate the birth centenary of the founder of Pakistan not so long ago.

In a similar way, more recently there was a deep and indeed extensive interest when we joined in a function held by your embassy in New Delhi to honour the memory of the great poet and thinker Allama Iqbal. We are aware of the special place he occupies in Pakistan's life as well as his universal appeal to the family of man. Indeed, many of us in India are devout votaries of his poetry and his message.

Let us move forward as cautiously as we wish to, but without allowing little hurdles to obscure our vision. Let our people not be strangers to each other. Let your artists and ours, your poets and our own, our sportsmen and yours get together. Visitors from India to Pakistan have gone back touched by the warmth of their reception. And from our side, I am quite certain of the enthusiasm to see your experts and scientists, your scholars and thinkers and your ordinary citizens in our midst. This would enable us to get to know each other better as Indians and Pakistanis.

In reminding ourselves that what matters is the urge to move ahead to a better future, I could do no better than recite from Allama Iqbal:

"Thaherta nahin Karvan III wajud, ke har lahza taza hai shan III wajud;
Samejhta hai tu razha III zindagicomma faqat zauq III parwaz hai zindagi;
Bahut usne dekhe hain past ooo baland, safar usko manzil se harhkar pasand;
Safar zindagi ke liye barg ooo saz, safar hai haqiqat hazar hai majaz."

(The caravan of life never halts. At every moment, life has a fresh visage. You think life to be a secret, but life is only the urge to keep moving. It has seen many ups and downs and loves movement more than rest. Movement is the essence of life. To move is reality, to stand is illusion.)

While thanking Your Excellency and the Government of Pakistan once again for the cordiality with which you have welcomed me and my delegation, I hope the visit will be the beginning of many more exchanges between the leaders of your country and ours.

I would now request all of you to join me in drinking a toast to the health of His Excellency Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, president of Pakistan; to His Excellency General Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator; to my gracious host His Excellency Agha Shahi; to the happiness and prosperity of the people of Pakistan and to the strengthening of good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India.

Agha Shahi Speech

Speaking on this occasion, Agha Shahi said that Vajpayee's talks had established a better atmosphere for evolving a relationship free of tension and based on sovereign equality and noninterference. He said the differences between the two countries had overshadowed the many factors which could draw them closer.

"Let us seize the opportunities for the further development of mutual understanding and trust by overcoming our differences in a just and honourable manner," he said. He referred to the Simla agreement and said the process of normalisation of relations would be carried to its logical conclusion with the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir question. A just solution of this issue could usher in a new era of fruitful relationship and open new fields of cooperation. Earlier in the day, Vajpayee, who had talks with the chief martial law administrator, General Ziaul Haq, described the talks as excellent and encouraging. He said a delegation of Pakistani journalists would visit India soon and stressed that an exchange of visits at all levels would lead to an improvement in their relations.

SAMACHAR adds: The exchange of views with Vajpayee, General Ziaul Haq told Indian newsmen, was "very pleasant and enjoyable" and this was a step in the right direction. He said that they discussed Kashmir in the light of the Simla agreement. Their talks also covered cultural exchanges like exchange of journalists, sportsmen, private sector industry and, of course, officials. He said it would be good if there was an exchange of views at all levels.

When a foreign correspondent asked whether his statement that Kashmir is not insoluble would mean stabilisation of the present line of control, General Zia said it was not so simple.

During his meeting with General Ziaul Haq, Vajpayee handed him a letter from Prime Minister Morarji Desai inviting him to visit India. General Zia showed the envelope to correspondents and said he hoped to visit India as soon as possible. He was grateful to Desai, for whom he had great regard and respect. He said India is lucky to have a man of his caliber at the helm of affairs.

Other subjects that came up during Vajpayee's talks with General Zia and Agha Shahi were trade, the Salal hydroelectric project and missing defence personnel. It is believed that General Zia told Vajpayee that if the particulars of the missing personnel were provided, he would look into the matter. Welcoming such visits, General Zia hoped both countries would cash in on this in due time. With efforts, the relations between India and Pakistan would improve, as it should be between two neighbours. Vajpayee also called on Pakistan President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry.

Press Conference

BK071639Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] India has told Islamabad that it wants to improve relations with Pakistan on the basis of equality, noninterference and good will. The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said in Islamabad this evening that he has told the Pakistan adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, that, though India happens to be a big country, its approach is not that of a big brother.

Addressing a crowded news conference, he gave a categorical assurance that India's approach implies not only respect for the sovereignty of each country but also the right to determine its own political and social systems.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says that in his hour-long exchange of views with the press, Mr Vajpayee, by his forthright answers, dispelled some of the misapprehensions in Pakistan about the Indian Government and the Janata Party. He said the Janata government and the Janata Party recognizes Pakistan as an independent sovereign nation.

Mr Vajpayee expressed the hope that his visit would lead to the augmentation of a climate of understanding and trust. In that atmosphere, India would be prepared to discuss all outstanding questions with a view to solving them. The Kashmir question, he pointed out, defied solution for 30 years. He underlined the fact that, according to the Simla agreement, the issue is to be discussed after normalization of relations. Though some steps have been taken toward normalization, many more still remain.

Asked about the UN resolutions on the subject, Mr Vajpayee said he would like to look forward and not look behind.

Giving an assessment of his visit, Mr Vajpayee said he is satisfied with it. He has come as an emissary of good will with no specific or package items. He said that both countries are committed to abjure the use of force. It was agreed during his discussions in Islamabad that talks on the Salal project should be resumed.

Earlier today Mr Vajpayee met some Pakistani citizens when he visited the visa office attached to the Indian Embassy in Islamabad. He listened to the difficulties they faced in obtaining visas for going to India. He agreed to the suggestion that opening another office in Karachi will benefit a large number of people. Mr Vajpayee also laid the foundation stone of a new building for the Indian Embassy in Islamabad.

The external affairs minister had an aerial view of Pakistan's prestigious multipurpose Tarbela Dam. He also visited Taxilla, the famous archeological sites dating back to the 5th century B.C.

Concludes Visit

BK080906Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has returned to Delhi at the end of his 3-day visit to Pakistan. Before his departure for New Delhi, Mr Vajpayee and the Pakistan adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, told newsmen at Lahore Airport that the visit was worthwhile and they were satisfied with the visit. Mr Vajpayee said India would like to go very far but the pace has to be decided by Pakistan. The future of India and Pakistan lies in cooperation and not in confrontation.

Mr Agha Shahi said the visit has served a useful purpose and he looked forward to continuing talks when he goes to New Delhi for the Salal project discussions. He said he has proposed the last week of this month for resuming talks on the subject. About the chief martial law administrator, Gen Ziaul Haq's visit to New Delhi, Mr Agha Shahi said he has every intention of going there, but certain important matters have to be smoothed out first. The talks to review trade matters are likely to be held next month. About liberalizing movement of people between the two countries, he said Pakistan would like to go about it slowly. The government is, however, examining the question.

Earlier this morning Mr Vajpayee went around the mazhar [tomb] of poet Iqbal and the samadhis [monuments] of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Guru Arjan Sahib. At the adjacent gurdawara [Sikh temple] Dera Sahib, sevadars [volunteers] presented saropas [robes] to him. Mr Vajpayee also went around the historic Lahore Fort.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT 4 FEB

BK041352Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Feb 78 BK

[Excerpt] At the auspicious hour of 0858 [0328 GMT] this morning, Mr J.R. Jayewardene was sworn in as the first elected president of Sri Lanka with full executive power. He took his oath before the chief justice, Mr (Victor Tennekoon) and before an unprecedented crowd of [words indistinct] in Colombo.

National Day Message

BK051530Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mr J.R. Jayewardene, the new president, has said that in the national effort toward economic resurgence we require the unfailing cooperation of every Sri Lankan both here and abroad. He has stated this in a special Independence Day message addressed to Sri Lankans abroad and to the people of all nations.

The message points out that the government is giving the highest priority to the provision of employment, cultivation of arable land and an efficient productive industrial sector, proper housing, improved health and educational services. He emphasized that the government and himself are committed to mobilizing all resources available toward achieving this goal through democratic means in a climate of peace and stability. He has stressed that all problems will be overcome with resolve and determination.

The message continues that the constitutional reforms, which include the establishment of the executive presidency and district minister, have been motivated by the need to insure that the government's economic policies are effectively and efficiently implemented at all levels. With a view to achieving this goal early, the government has commenced work on the accelerated Mahaweli program, which will bring nearly a million acres under cultivation. The free trade zone and the greater Colombo Economic Commission Law will promote investments and generate new employment avenues. Development projects have already commenced at village, district and regional levels. The economy has been liberalized to enable these activities to be conducted on a realistic basis.

Mr Jayewardene as new president has extended his greetings and good wishes to citizens and people of all nations. He expressed the hope that Sri Lankans abroad will continue to cultivate their best interests in the government's endeavor to build a free and just society.

PREMADASA APPOINTED NEW PRIME MINISTER

BK061313Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mr R. Premadasa was sworn in as prime minister by the president at the (Jadakiri Madariya) this morning. Mr Premadasa, who holds the post of deputy leader of the United National Party, was the minister of local government, housing and construction.

Mr Premadasa began his political career as a member of the Ceylon Labor Party and entered local politics in 1950 when he was elected a member of the Colombo Municipal Council. Since then he has served as deputy mayor of the Colombo Municipal Council, member of parliament, parliamentary secretary and minister. Apart from his political activities, Mr Premadasa is a reputed author. He has published several literary works.

Five other ministers also took their oaths today in Colombo. Seventeen ministers were administered the oath of office yesterday at Kandy by the president, Mr Jayewardene. There has been a cabinet reshuffle.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS SOLUTION TO SRV-CAMBODIA DISPUTE

BK071621Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, Feb 7 (AFP)--Sri Lanka as current chairman of the nonaligned movement will explore ways of bringing about a peaceful settlement of the border conflict between Vietnam and Kampuchea.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed told this to Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Van Sinh here today, who disclosed at a press conference [as received]. The ambassador called on Mr Hameed today and delivered a statement from the Vietnamese Government containing a three point proposal for the settlement of the dispute.

Vietnam has proposed an immediate halt to military activities and the stationing of the armed forces of each side within the respective territory five kilometres (3.1 miles) from the border.

It has called for an immediate meeting between the two sides in Hanoi or Phnom Penh or at a place on the border to discuss and conclude a treaty on the basis of respect for each other's territorial sovereignty within the existing border.

Vietnam has also proposed that an agreement be reached on an appropriate form of international guarantee and supervision.

The ambassador, addressing a press conference called to explain the proposals, said: "Imperialists and reactionaries" who had an interest in South East Asia were encouraging the "dangerous policies of Kampuchea" while countries friendly to Kampuchea and Vietnam were supporting peaceful negotiations.

He declined to name the "imperialists and reactionaries". He also said that several thousand Vietnamese have been killed. Tens of thousands of acres of land destroyed and families of six and seven butchered by the forces of Kampuchea.

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